



# CHAPTERS NEWSLETTER

Issue 03 – August to November 2025



*Lighting of the lamp by Shri Vivek Agarwal, I.A.S., Secretary, Ministry of Culture, GoI, in the presence of Shri Ashok Singh Thakur, Chairman, INTACH at Gaja Lok Exhibition*



*Shri Vivek Agarwal, I.A.S, Secretary, Ministry of Culture, GoI, Shri Ashok Singh Thakur, Chairman, INTACH, and Shri Ravindra Singh, I.A.S. (Retd.), Member Secretary, INTACH at the Gaja-Lok Roundtable*



*Vijayawada Chapter Installation by Shri Ashok Singh Thakur*

## Dear Heritage Enthusiasts

As the year draws to a close, INTACH stands at an exciting threshold of expansion and renewed purpose. The past months have witnessed two developments, which fill us with pride and optimism: the success of Project Gaj Lok – our pioneering initiative for Exploring Human-Elephant connections and the formal inauguration of four vibrant new Chapters at Vijayawada, Rangareddy, Vidisha and Jhunjhunu.

INTACH is proud to announce the launch of Project Gaja-Lok: Elephant Lands and their Cultural Symbolism in Asia, a pioneering transnational initiative. This culture-nature programme is dedicated to documenting and exploring the profound connections surrounding the Asian elephant, highlighting intertwined narratives of culture, history, ecology, and climate resilience across the continent.

Bringing together academicians, cultural experts, and conservationists, the Gaja Lok Exhibition and Roundtable mark the beginning of a multi-country dialogue that positions the elephant as both a cultural icon and a living emblem of ecological resilience. Programme was inaugurated by Shri Vivek Agarwal, IAS, Secretary Ministry of Culture, in the presence of Shri Asok Jairaj Singh, Chairman INTACH, Shri Ravindra Singh IAS (Retd) Member Secretary INTACH and Ms Nerupma Y Modwel, Principal Director, Intangible Cultural Heritage and Shri Manu Bhatnagar PD Natural Heritage Division.

Equally exhilarating is the geographical and ideological widening of the INTACH family as we welcome these four dynamic teams into our fold. “Heritage belongs not to governments or experts alone, but to every Indian who feels its pull.” Today, that pull is felt in the salt-laden air of coastal Andhra, the red soil of Central India, the charming city of Rajasthan engraved with beautiful architecture, and the burgeoning suburbs of Telangana.

Let us, therefore, rededicate ourselves – in the gentle spirit of Gaj Lok and the enthusiastic embrace of our new Chapters – to the quiet, persistent work of listening to our land and its stories. The monuments will stand taller, the elephants will walk freer, and the future will thank us, because we refused to look away.

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

## CHAPTERS DIVISION

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## Appointments

| INTACH New Appointments (August to November, 2025)  |                      |  |  |                      |
|---|----------------------|--|--|----------------------|
| The INTACH warmly welcomes the newly appointed Conveners, Co-Conveners and Additional Co-Conveners of its Chapters. |                      |  |  |                      |
| State   | Chapters             | Convener                                     | Co-Convener                                | Addl. Co- Convener   |
| August, 2025  |                      |  |  |                      |
| Madhya Pradesh  | Chanderi             | Shri Arun Somani                             | Shri Muzaffar Ansari                       | -                    |
|   | Khajuraho            | -  | Shri Hargovind Tiwari                      | -                    |
|   | Khandwa              | -  | Shri Ashok Mishra                          | -                    |
| Andhra Pradesh  | Vijayawada           | Shri Sai Papineni                            | Ms Balantrapu Naga Prasuna                 | -                    |
| Rajasthan   | Jhunjhunu            | Shri Raghuvendra Singh Dundlod               | Shri Atul Khanna                           | -                    |
| Haryana   | Sonipat              | -  | Dr Kavita Gupta                            | -                    |
| Odisha  | Cuttack              | Shri Dipak Samantarai                        | Shri Hitesh Shah                           | -                    |
| September, 2025   |                      |  |  |                      |
| Maharashtra   | Vidarbha Region      | -  | Ar (Ms) Madhura Rathod (State Co-Convener) | -                    |
|   | Nashik               | -  | Ar Jai Prakash Gokhale                     | -                    |
| Karnataka   | Anegundi-Hampi       | -  | Shri Ananda Babu Chitavadigi               | Shri Krishnadevaraya |
| Andhra Pradesh  | Andhra Pradesh State | Shri S V S Lakshmi Narayana (State Convener) | -  | -                    |
| Kerala  | Calicut              | Shri Prakash Manhapra                        | Shri Devakumar Thenchery                   | -                    |
| Punjab  | Hoshiarpur           | -  | Shri Paramvir Singh                        | -                    |
|   | Jalandhar            | Shri Harpreet Singh                          | Shri Arvind R Rajput                       | -                    |
| Odisha  | Jajpur               | Shri Shashanka Sekhar Dash                   | -  | -                    |
|   | Koraput              | Shri Ajit Kumar Patro                        | Shri Sunil Kumar Biswal                    | -                    |
| October 2025  |                      |  |  |                      |
| Odisha  | Mayurbhanj           | Ms Rashmi Rajyalaxmi Bhanjdeo                | Dr Shyam Sundar Das                        | -                    |
| Rangareddy  | Rangareddy           | Prof Ar Joganpally Gayatri                   | Prof G Sunil Kuma                          | -                    |



|                       |                     |  |  |                  |
|-----------------------|---------------------|--|--|------------------|
| <b>Madhya Pradesh</b> | Vidisha             | Shri Arvind Shrivastava  | Shri Rishi Jalori  | -                |
| <b>Pondicherry</b>    | Pondicherry         | Shri Ashok Panda   | Shri Arul A  | -                |
| <b>November 2025</b>  |                     |  |  |                  |
| <b>Telangana</b>      | Telangana State     | Ms Anuradha Reddy (Acting State Convener)<br>Shri Sajjad Shahid (State Convener) | -  | -                |
|                       | Hyderabad           | -  | Dr S P Anchuri   | -                |
| <b>Punjab</b>         | Chandigarh          | Ms Deepika Gandhi  | -  | -                |
| <b>Kerala</b>         | Palakkad            | Ms Sanusha U S   | Shri Prasanth K P  | Shri K M Subhash |
| <b>Rajasthan</b>      | Bikaner             | -  | Shri Manmohan Kalyani  | -                |
| <b>Uttar Pradesh</b>  | Uttar Pradesh State | -  | Shri Narendra Kumar S Chauhan, IAS(Retd) (State Co Convener) | -                |
| <b>Telangana</b>      | Telangana State     | -  | Shri Srinivas Murthy G (State Co Convener)                   | -                |

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## Chapters Division



Architectural Heritage Division that was

1. Chapters Division and IHA conducted the three-day XVII Capacity Building Workshop from 07<sup>th</sup> to 09<sup>th</sup> October, 2025 at the INTACH Head Office. The Workshop had 55 participants across the country. The sessions were conducted by heads of the various divisions of INTACH and their representatives. The participants were introduced to the heritage survey mobile application developed by the Architectural Heritage Division that was appreciated by the participants as an accessible and effective tool to map the heritage resources of India. NH Division conducted a session for Methodology of Identification, Listing & Documentation of Natural Heritage at “Sunder Nursery” participants identified and learnt the proper way to select and list heritage trees and Natural Heritage sites.



## **2. Gaja-Lok: Elephant Lands and Their Cultural Symbolism in Asia** *Roundtable and Exhibition organised by the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Division, INTACH*

The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), through its Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Division, launched **Gaja-Lok: Elephant Lands and their Cultural Symbolism in Asia**, a cross-border initiative exploring the cultural, historical, ecological, and climate-resilience narratives of the Asian elephant. The programme opened with the Gaja-Lok Exhibition and Roundtable, initiating a multi-country dialogue that positions the elephant as a shared symbol of cultural identity and ecological well-being.

The inaugural event began with a ceremonial lamp lighting by Chief Guest **Shri Vivek Agarwal, I.A.S.**, Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India, followed by remarks by **Shri Ashok Singh Thakur**, Chairman, INTACH, and **Shri Ravindra Singh, I.A.S. (Retd.)**, Member Secretary, INTACH, and an introduction by **Ms. Nerupama Y. Modwel**, Principal Director, ICH Division, INTACH.

The Gaja-Lok Roundtable gathered distinguished experts including **Prof. Raman Sukumar**, Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore; **Mr. Vivek Menon**, Chair, IUCN Species Survival Commission and Founder & ED, Wildlife Trust of India; **Dr. Vinod Mathur**, Former Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority



of India and Former Director, Wildlife Institute of India; **Dr. Khalid Pasha**, IUCN Asia



Regional Coordinator, Bangkok; **Mr. Ravi Singh**, Secretary General & CEO, WWF-India; **Ms. Sujatha Shankar**, Architect and Convenor, INTACH Chennai Chapter; **Dr. Nanditha Krishna**, President, C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation, Chennai; **Prof. Archana Shastri**, Former Director, Mekong-Ganga Cooperation Asian Traditional Textile Museum, Siem Reap, Cambodia; **Dr. N.V.K. Ashraf**, Wildlife Trust of India; **Dr. Arun Venkataraman**, Technical Consulting Director, ERM; **Prof. Mahesh Rangarajan**, Historian, Ashoka University; **Ms. Ina Puri**, Writer, Biographer, and Art

Curator; and **Prof. Ali Anooshahr**, Historian, University of California.

The exhibition showcased six thematic panels tracing the deep human-elephant relationship, from prehistoric depictions and ancient trade to religious symbolism, royal traditions, and ecological interactions.

Gaja-Lok celebrates the enduring bond between humans and elephants and aims to strengthen collaborative cultural heritage and conservation efforts across Asia.



*Lighting of the lamp by **Shri Vivek Agarwal**, I.A.S., Secretary, Ministry of Culture, GoI, in the presence of **Shri Ashok Singh Thakur**, Chairman, INTACH, and **Shri Ravindra Singh**, I.A.S. (Retd.), Member Secretary, INTACH, **Mr. Vivek Menon**, and **Prof. Raman Sukumar***



*A Walkthrough of the Exhibition by the Chief Guest*



*The Project Gaja-Lok Roundtable Discussions*

## Chapters Activities

### **Andhra Pradesh**

#### **Guntur**

The Guntur Chapter successfully conducted the Heritage Quiz, and we are pleased to share its highlights. We extend our sincere gratitude to all participating schools, including the principals, teachers, and enthusiastic students who made the event meaningful.

#### **Participation Highlights**

- 14 schools and 28 teams participated in the written round
- 7 schools/teams qualified for the final round

#### **Winners and Runners-up**

- **Winners:** Sk. Javed Abrar and Sk. Naveed from St. Laurels Public School emerged victorious in the city round and have qualified for the state-level competition. We extend our best wishes for their continued success.
- **Runners-up:** Ch. Lahari and K. Rohita from Dr. KLP Public School

#### **Acknowledgment**

We express our heartfelt appreciation to all those who supported the event. Special thanks to Shri P. Ramachandra Raju, Secretary, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, and members Dr. A. Rajasekhar, A. Venugopal, and S. Vijaykumar for their valuable contributions. We also acknowledge the presence of members Mr. B. Srinivas and Mr. K. Sita Ramesh, whose participation added to the success of the programme.

### **Srikakulam**

#### **Heritage & Infrastructure Advancement at Dusi Railway Station**

On 4 November, at the Visakhapatnam DRM Office, Civil Aviation Minister Shri K. Rammohan Naidu presented the proposal for the development of Dusi Railway Station, highlighting the works proposed by INTACH. The Railway General Manager confirmed that planning discussions with INTACH members would be held in December, followed by commencement of works.

In a significant move, the GM visited Dusi Railway Station soon after the meeting and issued instructions to the DRM to immediately begin the development of Gandhi Smritivanam. This high-level intervention has accelerated the approval and implementation timeline by nearly 50%, compared to typical infrastructure processes.

Senior INTACH member Shri Ponnada Ravikumar expressed gratitude to all contributors, emphasizing that this initiative ensures the preservation of the site's complete historical value for future generations.

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#### **Driving Heritage Preservation at Dusi Railway Station**

We are delighted to share a major development in the Dusi Railway Station heritage project. At a pivotal meeting at the Visakhapatnam DRM Office, Shri K. Rammohan Naidu strongly advocated for the heritage proposal put forth by INTACH, securing firm commitment from the Railway authorities.



The General Manager assured that detailed planning discussions with INTACH would take place in December and that the approved works would commence immediately thereafter. Demonstrating proactive leadership, the GM personally inspected the station and directed the DRM to start the Gandhi Smritivanam works without delay.

This constructive engagement at the senior level ensures rapid progress toward conserving and revitalizing this important heritage site.

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### **Celebrating Heritage: Kondam Kotha Festival & Tribal Identity**

The ARTS team organized a vibrant cultural programme in T.K. Jamu village under the initiative Strengthening Tribal Children’s Education through Culture and Traditional Identity. Children celebrated the Kondam Kotha, the harvest festival of indigenous Podu paddy.

Beyond being a joyful tradition, the festival served as an educational platform connecting children to their agricultural heritage, sustainable farming practices, and deep-rooted cultural identity. Participation alongside village elders ensured the intergenerational transmission of traditional knowledge, particularly the Podu cultivation system—an essential part of tribal livelihood and environmental sustainability.

This engagement reinforces cultural pride and strengthens meaningful, culturally grounded learning for tribal children.

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### **International Delegation Participates In Seed Festival**

The ARTS team facilitated a significant visit by an international delegation from IFAD and Malawi, supported by NABARD under the JIVA Project. The delegation participated in a Seed Festival showcasing indigenous farming knowledge and biodiversity.

During the event, they observed a striking display of local millets and native seeds arranged in circular, floral patterns—an artistic and symbolic expression of the community’s bond with nature and seed preservation traditions. The visit highlighted the global relevance of indigenous agricultural practices.

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### **Fostering Cultural Awareness: Heritage & Culture Quiz**

The ARTS team successfully facilitated the National Heritage & Culture Quiz at the Srikakulam District level, organized by INTACH. The programme provided students with an engaging platform to explore regional and national heritage, arts, monuments, and cultural traditions.

The quiz encouraged analytical and creative thinking and strengthened the connection of young participants with their cultural identity. By promoting cultural literacy, the



initiative helps foster the next generation of heritage ambassadors.

## Tourism Promotion & Health Checkup Camp – Srikakulam Chapter



In collaboration with JCI, Rotary, and local medical professionals, the ARTS team organized a comprehensive health camp at Jilledupadu Tribal Village. The camp provided essential health checkups to villagers while simultaneously exploring avenues for cultural tourism promotion.

Discussions with community members revealed strong interest in participating as cultural guides and hosts. This approach not only addressed immediate health needs but also laid the foundation for a sustainable tourism model that celebrates tribal culture, supports livelihoods, and strengthens community pride.



*Heritage Preservation at Dusi Railway Station*



*Kondam Kotha Festival*

## Vijayawada

The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) marked a significant milestone with the installation of its new chapter in **Vijayawada** on **12 October 2025**. The event brought together heritage enthusiasts, dignitaries, and senior INTACH members to celebrate the organization's expanding presence in Andhra Pradesh.

### Family Heritage Drive



The programme commenced with a **Family Heritage Drive** across the historic “City of Caves and Canals.” Members, dignitaries, and the general public were invited to explore important heritage sites in and around Vijayawada.

The rally was:

- **Inaugurated by:** Mr. G. Lakshmisha, IAS, Collector & District Magistrate, Vijayawada

- **Flagged off by:** *Mr. Ashok Singh Thakur*, Chairman, INTACH



Around **125 participants**, accompanied by their families, took part in the rally, supported by student volunteers from leading educational institutions.

#### **Installation Ceremony**

The installation ceremony was held at the **Vijayawada Club**, where **Ms. Prasuna Balantrapu**, Co-Convener of the new chapter, welcomed the gathering.

#### **Distinguished guests included:**

- **Mr. Ashok Singh Thakur**, Chairman, INTACH
- Gp Capt Arvind Shukla (Retd), Director, Chapters Division
- Mr. K. Chinnapa Reddy, Member, Governing Council
- Mr. Ramu Kumar, Convener, Anantapur Chapter
- Mr. Vedakumar Manikonda, INTACH Hyderabad Chapter
- Mr. S. V. S. Lakshmi Narayana, State Convener, Andhra Pradesh

#### **Chairman's Address**

In his keynote address, **Mr. Ashok Singh Thakur** emphasized the importance of preserving the rich cultural and architectural heritage of Vijayawada and the region. He underscored INTACH's pivotal role in advancing heritage conservation and encouraging community participation across India.

On this occasion, he:

- **Formally appointed** *Mr. S. V. S. Lakshmi Narayana* as **State Convener of INTACH, Andhra Pradesh**
- Personally interacted with individual chapter members, acknowledging their commitment and welcoming them into INTACH

#### **Declaration of the New Chapter**

Addressing the audience, **Capt. Arvind Shukla** explained the aims, objectives, and operational guidelines for newly formed chapters. He **officially announced:**

- The creation of the **240th INTACH Chapter** at Vijayawada
- Appointment of *Mr. Sai Papineni* as **Convener**
- Appointment of *Ms. Prasuna Balantrapu* as **Co-Convener**

Other dignitaries extended good wishes, shared their experiences, and assured continued support to the new chapter.

#### **Vision and Future Plans**

The newly formed **INTACH Vijayawada Chapter** outlined its goals, which include:

- Scientific documentation of heritage sites
- Organizing heritage awareness programmes
- Collaborating with government bodies on restoration initiatives
- Engaging youth and local communities in heritage activities

#### **Key contributions from members included:**

- *Ms. Uma Adusumilli*, Director (Strategy), APCRDA – emphasized the need for scientific and systematic documentation

- *Mr. Satish Chaganti*, INTACH Member – highlighted the importance of INTACH’s presence in the city and pledged strong local support
- *Ms. Sukeerthi Nitoor* – shared insights from the recent INTACH Capacity Building Workshop in New Delhi

### Conclusion

The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by **Mr. Sai Papineni**, Convener, expressing gratitude to all dignitaries, members, supporters, and volunteers. The formation of the INTACH Vijayawada Chapter marks an exciting beginning for heritage conservation initiatives in the city, setting the stage for innovative outreach and preservation programmes in the months ahead.



*Vijayawada Chapter Installation*

### Visakhapatnam

#### Obituary: Shri P. V. Prasad

*Former Convener, INTACH Visakhapatnam Chapter*

With deep sorrow and a profound sense of loss, INTACH announces the passing of **Shri P. V. Prasad**, former Convener of the INTACH Visakhapatnam Chapter, who departed peacefully in his sleep on Saturday night.

Shri Prasad was a devoted heritage enthusiast whose commitment to preservation was evident throughout his long association with INTACH. As a **Life Member**, and in his roles as **Co-Convener** and later **Convener** of the Visakhapatnam Chapter, he made



outstanding contributions that significantly shaped the chapter's growth, visibility, and impact. His leadership, dedication, and passion for safeguarding the cultural and architectural heritage of Visakhapatnam earned him great respect within the INTACH community.

He will be remembered dearly for his sincerity, humility, and unwavering service to the cause of heritage conservation.

We pray to the Almighty to grant **eternal peace to his noble soul** and to bless his family with strength and courage to bear this profound loss.

**May his memory continue to inspire our collective efforts toward preserving India's heritage.**

*Shri. P.V. Prasad, Former Convener, INTACH Visakhapatnam Chapter*

## **Arunachal Pradesh**

Book discussion on 'Himbintach: Tale of a Transcended Beauty' held ITANAGAR, NOV 23:

The Indigenous Publishing House (IPH), first independent publishing house of Arunachal Pradesh, hosted a book discussion on 'Himbintach: Tale of a Transcended Beauty', debut book of author Lopa Rebi Kojum at State Museum here on Sunday.

The event was organized as part of the World Heritage Week celebrations in collaboration with INTACH Arunachal Chapter convenor Oken Tayeng, MLA, and co-convenor Kari Lombi.

The event marked IPH's first public literary programme and served as a meaningful beginning to its literary journey.

The discussion was graced by the presence of respected voices from the state's literary



and academic community - Dr Bompi Riba and Dr Doyir Ete - both Assistant Professors of English at Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU).

Yumlam Tana, Deputy Director, Education Department and renowned poet and author of *The Man and the Tiger* - served as chief guest for the event. He highlighted the important role that the Indigenous Publishing House was playing in giving a platform to tribal voices.

A brief history was also given by him on how literature in Arunachal came to be and the necessity of telling such stories as that of Himbintach.

The tale of Himbintach is a folktale native to the Tagin tribe of Arunachal Pradesh, which was brought to life by Rebi's narrative and the beautiful illustrations of artist Tomar Tomsai Nayam.

Tokong Pertin, ex-Director of Trade and Commerce, who graced the event as guest of honour, made the audience aware about the rise of Arunachal Pradesh Literary Society (APLS) in the state.

The session was hosted by Wango Socia, currently pursuing his PhD in Hindi from RGU and moderated by Topi Bagra, serving as guest faculty in the Department of English at Dera Natung Government College (DNGC), who ensured a smooth and coherent flow of discussion.

The programme concluded with important pointers by Dr Bompi Riba and Dr Doyir Ete, whose insight and critique on the story truly helped make the event a fruitful one.

Following the review, there was a Q&A session, wherein the audience participated in asking about the themes and relevance of the story.

Indigenous Publishing House, established by Jummi Yomcha currently serving as general secretary of APLS Delhi Branch and creative director Deni Lombi, extended its gratitude to all attendees and expressed hope for continued engagement in future initiatives.

## **Assam**

A two-day **Philately Exhibition** was organized on **6-7 August 2025** by the University Museum and the Department of History, in collaboration with the **Department of Posts (Philately Section, Guwahati)** and the **INTACH Assam Chapter**. The exhibition aimed to celebrate the timeless charm of philately and highlight its importance as a bridge between stamps, stories, and history.

### **Inauguration and Opening Session**

The exhibition was inaugurated by **Prof. Alok Kr. Buragohain**, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, who spoke about philately as a *living archive* of human civilization, cultural expressions, and modes of communication.

The programme began with an introduction and welcome address by **Ms. Sanhati Adhikary**, Museum In-Charge, who served as the host of the event.

### **Exhibition Highlights**

A total of **15 frames** were displayed, featuring:

- **1,595 stamps**
- **122 rare covers**

These exhibits added historical depth and contextual richness, offering visitors an engaging visual journey through postal heritage. The exhibition drew much admiration, thanks to the participation of three renowned philatelists:

- **Mr. Binod Jain**
- **Mr. Vishal Sanganageria**
- **Ms. Tapasi Barman**

Their remarkable collections showcased the intricate artistry, history, and narratives embedded within postal artifacts.

### **Expert Talks**

As part of the programme, a special session on philately was organized featuring:

- **Rtd. IAS Swapnil Barua**

- **Prof. Surajit Mukhopadhyay**, Dean, Royal School of Humanities & Social Sciences  
Their insightful presentations enriched participants' understanding of philately as a cultural and historical pursuit—one that connects communication, art, and identity across time.

### **Recognitions and Felicitations**

The University felicitated all three philatelists and the invited speakers in recognition of their significant contributions to the event. On the concluding day, **certificates of appreciation** were presented to the participating philatelists.

### **Conclusion**

The exhibition served as a vibrant platform for students, faculty members, and enthusiasts to engage with the rich legacy of postal history. It successfully reaffirmed the educational and cultural value of philately in the contemporary digital era, inspiring renewed interest in this meaningful and enduring hobby.



*Philately Exhibition at The Assam Royal Global University – Assam Chapter*

## **Bihar**

### **Gaya Ji**

#### **Heritage Walk to Mahabodhi Temple in Association with IIM Bodhgaya**

**31 August 2025**



INTACH Gaya Chapter, in association with **IIM Bodhgaya**, organized a **Heritage Walk to the Mahabodhi Temple** on 31 August 2025. The walk formed an integral part of the orientation programme for the new batch of the **Integrated Programme in Management (IPM)** students of IIM Bodhgaya.

The students participated with great enthusiasm, gaining a firsthand understanding of the cultural, architectural,

and spiritual significance of the Mahabodhi Temple – one of the most revered Buddhist heritage sites in the world.

## Heritage Quiz - 7 October 2025

INTACH Gaya Chapter, in collaboration with **DAV School, Cantt. Area, Gaya,**



conducted the **City Round of the INTACH National Heritage Quiz** on 7 October 2025 at DAV Cantt. School. The quiz saw enthusiastic participation from several schools across the city.

### Results of the City Round:

- **Winners:** DAV Cantt. School - *Niraj Kumar Bharati and Suraj Kumar*
- **Runners-up:** Manav Bharati National School - *Saurav Kumar and Jyoti Kumari*
- **Third Place:** Jai Hind Public School

The **winner** and **runner-up** teams represented Gaya at the **State Round** held on 12 October in Patna, where the team from Manav Bharati National School secured the **third position**.

## Nawada

### 1. Save Heritage-Save Environment Programme

#### Public Meeting at Tateshvar Nath Temple, Thera - 28 July 2025

As part of the **Save Heritage-Save Environment Programme**, a public meeting was jointly organized on **28 July 2025** by the INTACH Nawada Chapter and the **Warisaliganj Block Unit of the National Senior Citizens Association** at Tateshvar Nath Temple, Thera, Warisaliganj, Nawada (Bihar).

Addressing the gathering as **Chief Guest, Professor Bachchan Kumar Pandey**, Convener, INTACH Nawada Chapter, highlighted that INTACH—established in 1984 under the leadership of the late Prime Minister **Shri Rajiv Gandhi**—works not only to create awareness of heritage at regional, national, and international levels but also actively contributes to its preservation. He cited the conservation of the **Patna GPO** as a notable achievement.

Prof. Pandey also announced that the Nawada Chapter plans to **document and catalog all heritage and archaeological structures across the district**, emphasizing the importance of safeguarding India's cultural traditions. Following the successful **Kaithi Script Training Programme** in Nawada, he added that the initiative has now been extended to **Nalanda district**.

The meeting was presided over by **Shri Shyam Sundar Dubey**, former Block Development Officer, and attended by INTACH members, senior citizens, and villagers. As part of the **Save Environment Programme**, a **tree plantation drive** was conducted.

Speakers included **Dr. Subodh Kumar, Mrs. Madhuri Sharma, Mr. Sundar Prasad, Mr. Lalit Kishore Sharma, Mr. Pyarelal, Mr. Mahendra Prasad Singh, Mr. Akhilesh Prasad Singh, Veena Mishra**, and others. The programme concluded with the **National Anthem**, followed by a community lunch organized by the villagers.

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## 2. Progress Report: Heritage Quiz 2025

Organized by INTACH Nawada Chapter

As per the instructions of INTACH New Delhi, the **Heritage Quiz 2025** was successfully organized by the **INTACH Nawada Chapter** with enthusiastic participation from students representing various schools.

The competition was coordinated by **Mr. Dayanand Prasad**, a noted teacher from Nawada. The judging panel comprised **Dr. Subodh Kumar (Retd. Bank Officer)**, **Principal Roshni Jain**, and **Principal Sonali Raj**.

Renowned retired teacher **Mr. Mahendra Prasad Singh**, the Chief Guest, addressed the participants and emphasized the values of nobility, service, and dedication to the nation. Convener **Professor Bachchan Kumar Pandey** also motivated the students, highlighting the responsibility of the younger generation in preserving heritage. He explained the quiz rules before the written and oral rounds commenced.

After the completion of all rounds, **Coordinator Mr. Dayanand Prasad** announced the results as determined by the judges.

### **Results**

- **First Place:** *Karan Raj* and *Rishabh* – **Kanhai Inter School**
- **Second Place:** *Sakshi* and *Shreya Vijay* – **BPS School**

The top two teams were awarded **medals and certificates**, while all participants received certificates of appreciation. Students securing the **third, fourth, and fifth positions** in the written round were given **certificates and consolation prizes**.

At the conclusion of the event, **Chief Guest Mr. Mahendra Prasad Singh**, **Quiz Coordinator Mr. Dayanand Prasad**, **Judge Dr. Subodh Kumar**, **Principal Roshni Jain**, and **Principal Sonali Raj** were felicitated with mementos by INTACH Nawada Chapter. Prominent attendees included:

**Mr. Shyam Sundar Pandey (Convener)**, **Mr. Sundar Prasad**, **Mr. Arjun Yadav**, **Mr. Umashankar Rajak**, **Mr. Surendra Kumar**, **Mr. Rakesh Ranjan**, **Mr. Bindu Prasad Singh**, **Mr. Lalit Kishore Sharma**, **Mr. Shyam Sundar Dubey**, **Mrs. Rani Kumari**, **Mr. Kedar Singh**, **Mr. Anil Yadav**, among others.

### **Patna**

#### **INTACH National Salon 2024**

INTACH Patna Chapter, in collaboration with the **Federation of Indian Photography**, organized the **INTACH National Salon 2024 (FIP/2024/225)** to support the proposal for including **Chhath Puja** in the **UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)** list.

The Salon featured **four sections**:

- Open Color
- Open Monochrome
- World in Focus
- Photojournalism

A large number of photographers participated, and **first-place winners in each section received medals**.

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#### **Patna Kalam Style Training Program 4.0 (12–19 May 2025)**

Held at **Patna Arts College campus**, the programme was inaugurated by **Prof. N. K. Aggarwal**, Director of Higher Education, who emphasized the importance of Patna Kalam as a significant artistic heritage deserving inclusion in academic curricula.

## Key

## speakers:

Prof. Ajay Kumar Aggarwal, Shri Lalit Kumar Singh (Deputy Director, Babu Tower), senior artists Archana Sinha, Sunita Prakash, Anupama Kumari, and Prof. Arun Kumar of Delhi University.

## Ceremonial roles:

- Welcome: *Bhairav Lal Das* (INTACH Patna Chapter) & *Rachna Priyadarshini* (Your Heritage)
- Vote of thanks: *Prof. Jayant Kumar* (NIFT)
- Instructors: *Ankur Kumar & Rupesh Kumar*

Approximately **25 children** received training in the Patna Kalam style. The **Patna Planet team**, led by Aditya Jalan, presented a heritage-focused PowerPoint prepared by Dr. Ajfar Ahmed during the closing ceremony.

**Prominent attendees:** Principal Rakhi Kumari, INTACH members Dilip Verma & Neetu Tiwari, and noted artists including Alka Das, Nandita Rajshree, Rajiv Ranjan Sinha, Swati Shankar, Devadyuti Adhikari, Srishti Tiwari, Shahnawaz Khan, Nibha Labh, Ritu Raj Atreya, Ashesh & Ramesh Labh. A special photography session was conducted by **B.K. Jain**, senior photographer.

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## International Museum Week (24 May 2025)

Jointly organized by **Veer Kunwar Singh Memorial Museum, Jagdishpur**, and **INTACH Patna Chapter**, the event featured:

- Site drawing competition
- Essay competition
- Heritage quiz

Over **100 students** participated. Certificates were awarded by **Bhairav Lal Das** and **Dr. Shivkumar Mishra**, Officer-in-Charge of the Museum.

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## Patna Kalam Style Training Program 5.0 (8–15 June 2025)

Conducted at **Archana Kala Kendra, Anisabad**, this edition trained **32 artists** in Patna Kalam.

## Closing ceremony highlights:

- *Gayatri Devi*, Joint Secretary, Bihar Legal Services Authority, praised women's contribution to reviving the art.
- *Prof. Ajay Pratap Singh* (AKU) emphasized the importance of mastering geometric patterns.

Other speakers included Dr. Ashwini Kumar, Neha Singh, Rachna Priyadarshini, Ravi Shankar Upadhyay, and craft artist Vibha Srivastava.

**Resource person:** *Rupesh Kumar*.

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## 'Angarh' Clay Art Exhibition & Workshop (13–19 July 2025)

Jointly organized by **INTACH Patna Chapter, Buddha Smriti Park Museum**, and **Your Heritage**, this workshop trained **52 women artists** in traditional clay craft.

Under the guidance of **Alka Das**, participants created:

Clay pots, elephants, Ganesha lamps, Mora, Vishahara, Rasan Chowki, fish pots, and more.

**Inaugural ceremony addressed by:**

- Mrs. Premlata Mishra (senior theatre personality & writer)
- Dr. Umesh Chandra Dwivedi (former Director, Bihar Museum)

**Notable contributions:**

- Dr. Ashok Kumar Sinha highlighted how various art forms complement each other.
- Dr. Jalaj Kumar Tiwari (archaeologist) appreciated the uniqueness of the artworks.
- Dr. Shivkumar Mishra discussed the workshop's cultural significance.

The week concluded with an **exhibition of sculptures**, open for public viewing for over a week.

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**Training Programme on Photogrammetry (18–24 July 2025)**

A week-long training programme was jointly conducted by **Department of Architecture & Planning, NIT Patna**, and **INTACH Patna Chapter**.

**Inauguration:**

- IAS *Mrs. Rachna Patil*, Director, Department of Art, Culture & Youth, Government of Bihar

**Curriculum Designers:** Anjali Sharma, Dr. Anushree Burman & Architect Milind A. Kamble

**Closing Ceremony:**

- *Bhairav Lal Das* served as Chief Guest
- 

**INTACH Patna Chapter Meeting (26 July 2025)**

A formal meeting was held at **Buddha Smriti Park Museum** to review:

- Income & expenditure statements
- Audit reports
- Annual reports
- Future plans

A book titled **History of Patna** by Prof. Anand Mohan Sharan was released. Chief Guest **Dr. Nigam Prakash Narayan** highlighted Pataliputra's global contributions in science and technology.

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**Kaithi Script Workshop (12–14 August 2025)**

Held at **Vidyapati Bhawan, Patna**, jointly organized by:

- Maithili Sahitya Sansthan
- Unreal Tech
- Council for Diversity and Innovation

Resource persons included:

- *Bhairav Lal Das*, Convener, INTACH Patna
  - *Dr. Shivkumar Mishra*, Co-Convener, INTACH Bihar Chapter
- 

**City-Level Heritage Quiz (23 August 2025)**

The quiz was organized at **Buddha Smriti Park Museum**, with participation from schools across Patna, as well as first-time entries from Rohtas, Bhojpur, and Saran districts.

**Winners:**

- **1st Place:** *Khanak Verma & Riyansh* – DPS Patna
  - **2nd Place:** *Jayesh Rana & Arnab Parashar* – St. Karen's School
-

Students were addressed by experts including:

- Dr. Umesh Chandra Dwivedi
- Dr. Umesh Kumar Singh
- Dr. Shivkumar Mishra

The event concluded with a vote of thanks, group photograph, and refreshments.

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### **Patna Kalam Workshop 6.0 (6–14 September 2025)**

Concluding on 14 September, the workshop featured a closing ceremony graced by **Mrs. Swadha Rizvi, IFS**, Regional Officer for Bihar–Jharkhand, ICCR.

Key contributors included:

- Dr. Shivkumar Mishra
- Dr. Manish Kumar
- Resource persons: *Mr. Jitendra Mohan & Prof. Dinesh Kumar*

Special emphasis was placed on **anatomical study** for learners of Patna Kalam. A week-long exhibition of paintings followed.

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### **Heritage Stepwell Surveys**

INTACH Patna Chapter conducted **two heritage visits** to a historic stepwell near Patna City.

Key observations:

- Very old structure with deteriorating stairways
- Water retained year-round
- Traces of a former balcony structure
- Surrounding open public land

An appeal has been sent to **INTACH Central Office** for restoration support.

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### **Chhath Puja Declared UNESCO ICH Heritage (28 September 2025)**

Hon'ble Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** announced the inscription of **Chhath Puja** in the **UNESCO ICH List** during his national broadcast, *Mann Ki Baat*.

INTACH Patna Chapter initiated this effort in **2024**, and it is a matter of great pride that the initiative reached national recognition.

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### **INTACH National Salon 2025 (Chhath Puja Photography)**

Organized by **INTACH Patna Chapter** and the **Federation of Indian Photography (FIP/2025/159)**, the Salon featured sections in:

- Monochrome
- Color
- Monochrome (Chhath Puja)
- Color (Chhath Puja)
- World in Focus (Chhath Puja)

A panel of senior photographers will award medals to the first-place winners.

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### **International Seminar: Rituals and Traditions of Chhath Puja (11 October 2025)**

Held at **Buddha Smriti Park Museum**, the seminar featured:

- **Keynote:** Prof. Rob Linrothe, Northwestern University, USA
-

Speakers included Dr. Shivkumar Mishra and Dr. Umesh Chandra Dwivedi, discussing the historical references to Chhath Puja and Sun-worship traditions.

**22 researchers** presented papers, with participation from Patna, Darbhanga, Pune, Baroda, and Varanasi.

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### INTACH State-Level Heritage Quiz (12 October 2025)

Held at **Buddha Smriti Park Museum**, with **nine teams** representing Patna, Gaya, Nawada, Bhagalpur, and Purnia.

#### Results:

- **1st Place:** *Sabal Kumar & Darsheel* – Vidya Vihar Residential School, Purnia
- **2nd Place:** *Arnav Prakash & Jayesh Rana* – St. Karen’s School, Patna

Participants received certificates, medals, and mementos. The programme concluded with a guided tour of Buddha Smriti Park.

### Purnea

#### INTACH Purnea Chapter – City Level Heritage Quiz 2025 Report

**Date:** 30 August 2025 (Saturday)

**Venue:** Ravibansh Narayan Mishra Memorial Auditorium, Vidya Vihar Residential School (VVRS), Parora, Purnea

**Time:** 2:00 PM – 7:00 PM

The INTACH Purnea Chapter successfully organized the **City Level Round of the INTACH India Heritage Quiz 2025** with enthusiastic participation from students and institutions across Purnea.

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### School-Level Outreach and Preliminary Round

To ensure wide participation and heritage awareness, the Chapter conducted **School-Level Preliminary Tests** in various schools across Purnea, engaging **approximately 1,300 students**. As part of its outreach, the INTACH Purnea team personally visited many schools to motivate students and teachers.

Selected teams from these schools advanced to the City Level Round held on 30 August 2025.

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### Fourth Consecutive Year of Professional Heritage Quizzing

This year marks the **fourth consecutive year** that INTACH Purnea Chapter has organized the Heritage Quiz in a professional manner:

- **2024:** INTACH Purnea Chapter received the **Best Chapter Award** for Heritage Quiz. The event was conducted by renowned quizmaster **Mr. Somnath Chanda** (Kolkata).
- **2023:** National-level quizzier **Shri Arindam Bhattacharya** conducted the quiz, with **1,500+ students** participating throughout the stages.
- **2022:** The quiz was professionally hosted by **Shri Sushil Kumar** (KBC’s first ₹5 crore winner) and **Ms. Archana** (content writer for KBC), involving **1,200+ students**.

**In 2025**, the Chapter invited the distinguished quizmaster **Mr. Samiran Mondal**, adding national-level exposure for participating students.

## City-Level Round (30 August 2025)

A total of **126 qualified teams** from **18 schools** participated in the final City Level Round at the auditorium of VVRS.

### Inaugural Ceremony

The programme began with **lighting of the lamp** by dignitaries, including:

- **Shri Raj Kumar Gupta**, ADM (Law & Order), Purnea
- **Dr. Raman Kumar Soni**, Addl. Co-Convener, INTACH Purnea Chapter

Dr. Raman delivered the welcome and introductory address.

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### Written Round

A comprehensive written test was conducted, covering:

- National heritage
- State and local heritage
- INTACH-related knowledge

The top **six teams** qualified for the **Stage Round: Team Himalaya, Team Satpura, Team Deccan, Team Vindhya, Team Aravalli, and Team Nilgiris.**

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### Stage Round and Final Results

The Stage Round comprised multiple rounds of intense and engaging quizzing conducted by **Mr. Samiran Mondal.**

#### City Champions - Purnea 2025

🏆 **1st Prize (City Champions): Vidya Vihar Residential School, Parora, Purnea**

- *Participants: Sabal Kumar & Darshil*

All podium-finishing teams received **trophies and medals**, and all participants, along with dignitaries and guests, were felicitated. Refreshments were served during the event.

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### Organizing Team and Support

The event was organized under the guidance of INTACH Head Office, HECS Division, and Chapters Division.

Leadership and coordination by:

- **Er. Rajesh Chandra Mishra**, Convener
- **Amit Kumar Jha**, Co-Convener
- **Dr. Raman Kumar Soni**, Addl. Co-Convener & Event Coordinator

Dr. Raman ensured the smooth and successful execution of the entire event.

Significant support was received from:

- Management and staff of **Vidya Vihar Residential School**
  - Principals and teacher coordinators of participating schools
  - Volunteers and INTACH Purnea Chapter members
- 

### Impact and Feedback

The quiz generated tremendous enthusiasm among students, teachers, and school heads.

Participants expressed their commitment to:

- Preparing more rigorously for next year
  - Engaging more actively in heritage awareness
  - Strengthening their understanding of local and national history
-

School heads appreciated the **professional conduct, warm hospitality, and the heritage awareness** created among the students.

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## INTACH Purnea Chapter – Outstanding Achievement at the State-Level Heritage Quiz 2025

### 1. Purnea City Round Champions Win the Bihar State Round

We are delighted to announce that the **City Round Winning Team** of the INTACH Purnea Chapter – **Sabal Kumar and Darshil** from *Vidya Vihar Residential School (VVRS)* – has won the **Bihar State Round of the INTACH National Heritage Quiz 2025**, held today in Patna. The team will now proudly **represent Bihar at the National Round**.

This adds to the chapter’s impressive track record:

- **State Winners: 2022**
- **State Runners-up: 2023 & 2024**
- **State Winners again: 2025**

This consistent performance highlights the dedication of the students, teachers, and the Purnea Chapter in promoting heritage awareness.

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### 2. Purnea Chapter and Vidya Vihar Residential School Create History

A grand **State-Level INTACH National Heritage Quiz** was organized at the Buddha Smriti Park Museum Auditorium, Patna, under the aegis of **INTACH Bihar** and the **INTACH Patna Chapter**. A total of **nine teams** from chapters across Purnea, Patna, Gaya, Bhagalpur, and Nawada participated. The quiz was conducted by **Atul Priyadarshi**, who served as the Quiz Master.

The team of **Sabal Kumar and Darsheel**, representing **INTACH Purnea Chapter** and **Vidya Vihar Residential School**, delivered an outstanding performance and secured **first place**. They will now advance to represent Bihar at the **National-Level INTACH Heritage Quiz**.

The **second place** was secured by **Arnav Prakash and Jayesh Rana** of the Patna Chapter and St. Karen’s High School.

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### Words of Appreciation and Congratulations

**Dr. Raman Kumar Soni**, Addl. Co-Convener, INTACH Purnea Chapter, highlighted that VVRS teams have been **City-Level Champions for four consecutive years (2022–2025)**. He noted that the school previously secured:

- **1st place in 2022** (State Round)
- **2nd place in 2023 & 2024**

He described the 2025 victory as a *historic achievement* for both the chapter and the school. **Er. Rajesh Chandra Mishra**, Convener, INTACH Purnea Chapter and School Secretary, congratulated the team and said:

“This achievement reflects the talent of the students of Purnea, their cultural dedication, and the inspiration of their mentors. It has taken the pride of Vidya Vihar to new heights.”

**School Director Ranjit Kumar Paul** added:

“Representing Bihar and Purnia at the national level is the outcome of the collective efforts of teachers, parents, and students. This victory is a proud moment for the entire Vidya Vihar family.”

**Principal Nikhil Ranjan** congratulated the winners, stating:

“Competitions like these instill deep respect and understanding of India’s heritage, history, and culture among students.”

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### Dignitaries Present

The event was graced by several esteemed INTACH representatives, including:

- **Bhairav Lal Das**, Convener, INTACH Bihar & Patna Chapter
- **Dr. Shiv Kumar Mishra**, Co-Convener, Patna Chapter
- **Dr. Raman Kumar Soni**, Co-Convener, Purnea Chapter
- **Prof. Bachchan Kumar Pandey**, Nawada Chapter
- **Members Vishal and others**



*The City Level Round of INTACH India Heritage Quiz 2025*

### Chhattisgarh

#### INTACH National Heritage Quiz 2025 – City Round Report

##### *Gaurela–Pendra–Marwahi (GPM) Chapter, Chhattisgarh*

The Gaurela–Pendra–Marwahi (GPM) Chapter of INTACH, Chhattisgarh, successfully organized the **City Round of the INTACH National Heritage Quiz 2025** on **23 August 2025**, in accordance with the directives of HECS, INTACH New Delhi.

#### Venue

**SS College of Education**, Sarabhara, Pendra Road, District GPM, Chhattisgarh.

#### Participation

- **130 students** (forming **65 teams**) from **11 reputed government and private schools** across Gaurela, Pendra, and Marwahi took part in the competition.
- Participants represented Classes 7–10 and demonstrated exemplary enthusiasm and knowledge.
- **18 teachers** from participating schools were present throughout the program.

#### Competition Structure

1. **Written Round:**

All 65 teams attempted a written questionnaire covering national, state, and local heritage.

2. **Oral Buzzer Round:**

Based on the written scores, **four top-performing teams** qualified for the oral Buzzer Round.

3. **Final Results:**

Combined scores from the written and oral rounds determined the winners.

## Winners

- **First Prize:**  
**Kaustubh Shukla (Class 9) and Khusnuma (Class 7)**  
*Swami Atmanand English Medium School, Semra, District GPM*
- **Second Prize:**
- **Zubia Parveen (Class 10) and Arpita Kushwaha (Class 10)**
- *Amita Shiksha Niketan, Purana Gaurela*

## Program Schedule

- The event commenced at **10:30 AM** with registration, followed by the written test, refreshments, and the oral Buzzer Round held in the Conference Hall.
- The program concluded at **3:00 PM** with a **Certificate Distribution Ceremony**.

## Certificate Distribution Ceremony

### Chief Guest:

- *Mr. Arvind Mishra, Convener, INTACH Chhattisgarh State*

### Presiding Guest:

- *Dr. Rakesh Kumar Tiwari, Convener, INTACH Raipur Chapter*

### Special Guests:

Mr. Vikas Tyagi, Ms. Wendy Williams, Mr. Sharad Agarwal, Mr. Partho Chattopadhyay, Ms. Gayatri Bhosale, Ms. Kalyani Dubey, and INTACH members including Dr. Imran Siddiqui and Mr. Ansar Junjani.

All guests motivated the students and highlighted the significance of heritage awareness.

### Organizing Team

The entire event was conducted under the leadership of:

- **Mr. Shahid Jama Khan, Convener, GPM Chapter**
- **Mr. Naveen James, Co-Convener**

They were supported by SS College's Principal, faculty, staff, INTACH members, and volunteers. Refreshments were provided to all students, teachers, guests, and staff.

### Awareness & Outreach

Guest speakers addressed **over 160 participants**, sharing insights into the heritage of Chhattisgarh and the work undertaken by INTACH across the state.

### Next Stage

The **First Prize-winning team – Kaustubh Shukla and Khusnuma** – will represent the GPM Chapter in the **Chhattisgarh State-Level Round** of the INTACH National Heritage Quiz 2025.

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## Chhattisgarh State-Level Heritage Quiz - 12 February 2025

The **State-Level Round** of the INTACH National Heritage Quiz was held on **12 February 2025** at the **Anand Samaj Library, Gandhi Sadan, Raipur**.

- Students and teachers from **eight INTACH chapters** across Chhattisgarh participated.
  - **Chief Guest:** *Dr. Shiv Kumar Pandey, Former Vice Chancellor*
  - **Chairman:** *Mr. Shashank Sharma, Minister of State for Culture*
- Both guests spoke extensively about Chhattisgarh's rich cultural heritage.

**Mr. Arvind Mishra, State Convener, and Dr. Rakesh Tiwari, Raipur Chapter Convener,** highlighted the ongoing heritage initiatives of INTACH.

The event was well attended by INTACH members, dignitaries, and a large number of students.

**The Mahasamund Chapter secured first place in the state-level competition.**

## Durg-Bhilai

### INTACH Heritage Quiz Competition - City Round

Indian Cultural Fund, Durg-Bhilai Chapter

Date: 30 August 2025



The Indian Cultural Fund, **INTACH Durg-Bhilai Chapter**, successfully organized the **City Round of the INTACH National Heritage Quiz 2025**. A total of **98 students** from **10 schools** across Durg-Bhilai participated with great enthusiasm, showcasing their knowledge and interest in India's cultural heritage.

#### Purpose of the Quiz

Chapter Convener **Dr. Hansa Shukla** highlighted that the National Heritage Quiz is conducted annually to create awareness

among children about the country's rich cultural and natural heritage, and to inspire them to contribute to its preservation.

#### Competition Structure

The competition was conducted in two stages:

1. **Written Examination (Stage 1):**

All participating teams appeared for a written test. Based on merit, **four teams** were selected for the next stage.

2. **Oral Quiz (Stage 2):**

An interactive oral quiz round determined the final winners.

#### Guests & Key Messages

##### Chief Guest:



**Dr. Rajni Nelson**, former District Education Officer and eminent educationist, addressed the participants. She highlighted the *historical and cultural significance of the Durg district* and shared insights into traditional Chhattisgarhi ornaments and cultural practices.

##### Presiding Guest:

Educationist **Prof. Dr. D. N. Sharma** emphasized that the **Earth—4.54 billion years old—is humanity's oldest and most**

**valuable natural heritage**, enriched with mountains, glaciers, rivers, waterfalls, oceans, and biodiversity. He also underlined that indigenous knowledge, folk traditions, customs, festivals, folk music, and dance form essential components of India's cultural heritage.

## Winning Teams

### 🏆 First Place - DPS Risali, Bhilai

- Ninashi Panda
- Sachit Sahu

### □ Runner-up - Adarsh Kanya Vidyalaya, Durg

- Sudha Sen
- Sakshi Sahu

Other participating schools included:

KPS Bhilai, Shankara Vidyalaya Sector-10, DAV HUDCO, Maitri Niketan Risali, Maharishi Dayanand Vidyalaya Bhilai, and Swami Atmanand School Sector-9.

## Notable Contributors

The event was successfully coordinated by **Vidya Gupta** and supported by:

- International painter **Dr. Mahesh Chaturvedi**
- **Shanu Mohanan**
- **Kanti Bhai Solanki**
- **Vishwas Tripathi**
- Teachers and students from participating schools

Their collective efforts ensured the smooth execution of the competition.



INTACH Heritage Quiz Competition City Round

## Gaurela Pendra Marwahi (GPM)

### I. Special Feature on the 85th Death Anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore

On the 85th death anniversary of **Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore**, the revered author of India's national anthem *Jana Gana Mana*, we offer our humble tributes and salutations.

Remembering Gurudev brings forth countless memories—some widely known, others lesser heard. Even if one may not be deeply familiar with his vast Bengali literary oeuvre, every Indian who has attended school knows that Gurudev composed the national anthem, sung with reverence across all educational institutions, government offices, and public spaces, including cinema halls. His immortal song "*Ekla Chalo Re*" is hummed by generations even today.

### Tagore's Emotional Connection with the Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi Region

Few people beyond the region know that Gurudev had a personal and emotional connection with **Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi (GPM)**. Around 1901-02, he visited the famous **Pendra Sanatorium**, once considered one of Asia's leading TB hospitals. Surrounded by dense Sal forests and pristine rivers, Pendra's climate was ideal for healing.

Gurudev came here seeking treatment for his wife, **Mrs. Mrinalini Devi**, who was suffering from tuberculosis. Despite prolonged efforts, she passed away on **23 November 1902**, at the age of 28. Her cremation was performed here in Pendra – a deeply painful chapter in Tagore’s life.

### **Preserving Tagore’s Legacy**

- Former Chief Minister **Shri Ajit Jogi**, recognizing this historical significance, renamed the Sanatorium complex as **Rabindra Park** and organized the Life Line Express camp here.
- The Railways commemorated Tagore’s 1901 journey from Calcutta to Bilaspur and Pendra Road by installing a plaque at **Bilaspur Railway Station** inscribed with lines from his poem “*Fakin.*”
- In 2001–02, a research team led by senior journalist **Satish Jaiswal** and litterateur **Manish Dutt** studied Tagore’s time at the Sanatorium and documented its historical relevance.

In 2020, during the **Arpa Mahotsav**, then Chief Minister **Bhupesh Baghel** praised the natural beauty of the region and emphasized that Tagore’s memories must be preserved. As part of these efforts, a **statue of Gurudev** was installed in the Sanatorium premises on **7 May 2023**, marking his birth anniversary.

### **A Vision for the Future**

On this solemn occasion, there is merit in considering that the **Mother and Child Hospital** located in the Rabindra Complex – now functioning as the district hospital – could be upgraded to a **State Government Medical College** and named after **Mrs. Mrinalini Devi Tagore**. This would be a heartfelt tribute from the Narmada region and a meaningful way to immortalize her memory.

Respectful homage to Gurudev – poet, philosopher, and a timeless beacon of Indian culture.

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## **II. Heritage Quiz Competition - Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi Chapter (23 August 2025)**

The INTACH GPM Chapter organized a **Heritage Quiz Competition** on **Saturday, 23 August 2025**, inviting students from Classes VII to X. Despite heavy rainfall in the district, the event witnessed enthusiastic participation, with **120 students from 11 Hindi and English medium schools** joining the competition.

### **Top Results**

- **First Place:** Students from **Atmanand English Medium School, Semra Gorella**, under the mentorship of **Ms. Kalyani Dubey**
- **Second Place:** Students from **Amit Shiksha Niketan**, guided by **Mr. Paraton**

### **Dignitaries Present**

- **Mr. Arvind Mishra**, State Convener & President, INTACH Chhattisgarh
- **Mr. Rakesh Kumar Tiwari**, District Convener, Raipur

### **Organizing Team & Acknowledgments**

The program was successfully led by:

- **Mr. Shahid Jama Khan**, Convener, GPM Chapter
- **Mr. Naveen James**, Co-Convener

Sincere thanks to the Principal and teachers of **SS College**, as well as supporters including **Imran, Miraj, Anwar Junjani, Vikas Tyagi, Paraton Sir, G. William Sir**,

Tiwari Sir, Wendy Madam, Tyagi Madam, Kalyani Dubey, Varsha Madam, and all staff and volunteers like Viru Yadav, Ikka Sir, and others.

The organizers conveyed heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to the smooth conduct of the competition.

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### III. Heritage Profile: The Ancient Town of Dhanpur

Dhanpur, located in the Pendra region, is an ancient site of immense historical and cultural value. Its layered past spans mythology, religion, trade, and archaeology.

#### Historical Highlights

- **Ancient Jain Trading Centre:**

Dhanpur was once a flourishing commercial hub for Jain traders.

- **Connection to the Pandavas:**

Local traditions recount that the *Pandavas* stayed here during their *period of exile*.

- **Religious Significance:**

The town houses an ancient temple dedicated to **Goddess Adishakti Durga**, making it an important pilgrimage destination.

- **Archaeological Treasures:**

Several ancient artifacts – including the well-known **statue of Benibai** – add to the site's archaeological importance.

Interestingly, some believe these artifacts to be extraterrestrial in origin, while others view them as evidence of Buddhist influence.

Today, Dhanpur remains a vibrant **heritage, religious, and tourist destination**, known as a **Shaktipeeth** and treasured for its cultural legacy.



The INTACH GPM Chapter, led by **Convener**

**Mr. Shahid Jama Khan** and **Co-Convener Mr. Naveen James**, will continue to share historical insights about the Pendra region. *Jai Johar*.



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### IV. INTACH GPM Participation in the 4th Chhattisgarh State Festival (Silver Jubilee Year)

As part of the **4th Chhattisgarh State Festival**, marking its **25th Silver Jubilee**, students of INTACH GPM added vibrancy to the celebrations with a spirited **Chhattisgarhi dance performance**.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from INTACH GPM members and students, including:

**Convener Shahid Jama Khan, Co-Convener Naveen James, Viru Yadav, Gayatri Bhosale Madam, Swati Tiwari Madam, Gayatri Sahu Madam**, and many children associated with INTACH activities.

Their contribution reflected the cultural pride, unity, and talent of the region.



*Heritage Quiz Competition*

## Gujarat Bhavnagar

### 1. Ply-Split Braiding Workshop

A weekend of ply-split braiding with Professor Erroll Pires offered an enriching experience for all participants. A retired professor from the National Institute of Design, Professor Erroll has dedicated decades to mastering this intricate craft and has showcased his work in renowned museums across the world. At Nilambag Palace, he conducted four workshops, giving students and enthusiasts a rare opportunity to learn directly from a master. Participants gained valuable insights into the technique, history, and contemporary applications of ply-split braiding.



### 2. Mata ni Pachedi: The Sacred Art of Hand-Painted Textiles

Bhavnagar hosted a four-day workshop (February 6–9) at Nilambag Palace celebrating the ancient Gujarati art form of **Mata ni Pachedi**. Conducted by Padma Shri awardee **Bhanubhai Chunilal Chitara** and his son **Mahesh Chitara**, the workshop offered hands-on learning in natural dye-making, traditional motifs, and intricate brushwork.



Organized under the National Mission on Cultural Mapping with support from IGNCA Vadodara, INTACH Bhavnagar, and Bhavnagar Heritage, the event enabled over 50 students and artists to engage with a centuries-old tradition rooted in devotion and resilience.

### 3. Khel Utsav: Heritage Games

On February 16th, Nilambag Palace came alive with energy as Bhavnagar Heritage, INTACH Bhavnagar, Nilambag Palace, and Small Wonders hosted **Khel Utsav**, a celebration of India's traditional outdoor games. Students relived the joy of **Kho Kho, Kabaddi, Gilli Danda, Kancha**, and other classics, rekindling community spirit and cultural heritage in an era dominated by digital entertainment. Ten schools participated, making the festival a memorable revival of outdoor play.



### 4. Baithak at Barton: Rumi, Sufism, and Heritage

Barton Library hosted an intellectually rich session, *Baithak at Barton*, featuring scholar **Subhash Bhatt**.

The gathering explored the themes of Rumi, Sufi philosophy, and the journey of the *Saadhak*, creating a reflective space where history, literature, and spirituality came together amid the library's timeless charm.

### 5. World Heritage Day: A Ride for Resilience

Bhavnagar celebrated **World Heritage Day** (April 18) with a special **Cycle Heritage Tour**, reflecting the global theme "*Disaster and Conflict-Resilient Heritage.*" Hosted by Bhavnagar Heritage, INTACH Bhavnagar, and the Bhavnagar Cycle Club, the event drew over 60 early-morning participants. Flagged off from Nilambag Palace by **Yuvraj Jaiveerraj Sinh Gohil** and **Kunvari Saheb Brijeshwari Kumari Gohil**, the curated route included stops where INTACH volunteers highlighted the historical significance of each site and stressed the need for community-led preservation strategies.



### 6. Art & Heritage: Linocut Workshop

In collaboration with Kshitij Art Classes, INTACH Bhavnagar and Bhavnagar Heritage organized a two-day **Linocut Printmaking Workshop** (April 19-20) at Nilambag Palace. Renowned artist **Ajay Chauhan** guided participants through carving and printing techniques inspired by local heritage motifs. The meditative nature of linocut—preserving what is meaningful—beautifully echoed the year's World Heritage Day theme, emphasizing that heritage preservation is also a creative and community-driven endeavour.



## 7. Dharohar: A Soulful Symphony at Nilambag Palace



World Heritage Day celebrations concluded with “Dharohar: Mari Matina Sangit ni Sugandh”, a spectacular music and heritage evening held at Nilambag Palace. Over 2,000 attendees enjoyed the live launch of the composition “Kan Kunwar Nu Bhavenu” and an electrifying performance by the Bhavnagar-born **Algari Band** – Atharva Joshi, Vatsal Joshi, and Jay Dhapa—who brought new life to traditional music through modern expression.

## 8. International Yoga Day: Harmony at Nilambag Palace



On June 21st, Bhavnagar celebrated **International Yoga Day** with a special women’s yoga session on the lawns of Nilambag Palace. Aligned with the theme “Yoga for One Earth, One Health,” the session was co-organized by Bhavnagar Heritage, INTACH Bhavnagar, Nilambag Palace, and Purvi’s Yoga Therapy. A certified yoga trainer and Garbh Sanskar coach led participants through mindful movement and breathwork, reinforcing the message that self-care contributes to global wellness.

## 9. Book Lovers Day at Barton Library

INTACH Bhavnagar celebrated **Book Lovers Day** on August 2 at the historic Barton Library with enthusiastic participation from INTACH schools including Kumarshala, Shree Nandkuvarba, Mahdi School, Amarjyoti Saraswati School, and Silver Bells. Participants shared their favourite books and the stories behind them, sparking conversations and cultivating a community of readers.

### Resin Rakhi Craft Workshop at Nilambag Palace



On August 3rd, Bhavnagar Heritage, INTACH Bhavnagar, and the Kshitij Foundation jointly organized a **Raksha Bandhan-themed craft workshop** at Nilambag Palace. Participants created **custom resin rakhis, decorative resin puja thalis, and handcrafted diyas**, with each attendee receiving a festive gift hamper. The workshop attracted participants of all ages and celebrated creativity in a culturally meaningful way.

## 10. INTACH National Heritage Quiz – Bhavnagar Round

The Bhavnagar round of the **INTACH National Heritage and Education Quiz 2025** was held at Nilambag Palace, where teams from various schools participated enthusiastically. **Amarjyoti Saraswati International School** emerged as the winner and will represent Bhavnagar at the state-level round.

## 11. Ply-Split Braiding Workshop (Second Edition)



A two-day advanced **Ply-Split Braiding Workshop** was conducted on September 27–28 by Bhavnagar Heritage and INTACH Bhavnagar at Nilambag Palace.

Professor **Errol Pires** led specialised sessions—one for children and another for adults and artisans—focusing on both introductory techniques and modern applications such as jewellery and apparel.

## 12. Chronicle of Fading Grandeur: An Evening with Hemant Chaturvedi

On November 1st, renowned cinematographer and photographer **Hemant Chaturvedi**



presented an evocative visual lecture at Nilambag Palace.

He shared highlights from his extensive pan-India project documenting more than a thousand single-screen cinemas—structures that once embodied community, aspiration, and cinematic wonder. His work reminded attendees that heritage lies not only in what we preserve but also in what we choose to remember.

## 13. Heronry Walk with Dr. Indra Gadhvi

On November 9th, Dr. **Indra Gadhvi**—Professor of Marine Biology and Honorary Wildlife Warden—led a morning **Heronry Walk** exploring Bhavnagar’s rich wetland ecology.

Participants learned about nesting habits, seasonal patterns, and the cultural significance of local heron species, gaining a deeper appreciation of the region’s ecological heritage.

## Haryana Ambala

The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) Ambala Chapter, under the aegis of HECS, organized a **National Heritage Quiz** for school students on **23 July 2025** at **B.D. Senior Secondary School, Ambala Cantt.** The event witnessed exceptional participation, with **96 students from 24 schools**, including DAV School Naraingarh and Prime Steps International School Shahjadpur. A large number of INTACH members and distinguished guests graced the occasion.

### Dignitaries Present

- **Chief Guest:** Lt Gen Ram Pratap (Retd), PVSM, AVSM, VSM, former DG AD Arty
- **Guests of Honour:** Dr. Deshbandhu, renowned educationist and President, SD Sabha; Brig. Anand Karve
- **Other Dignitaries:** Dr. Sonika Sethi, Dr. Vijay Sharma, Principal Renu Chowdhary, Dr. Bharti Bandhu, among others

## Quiz Format

### Written Round

The event began with a bilingual written quiz (Hindi and English), conducted as per HECS guidelines. Based on the results, **four top teams** advanced to the oral round.

### Oral Round

The oral quiz comprised **five rounds**, conducted by **Mrs. Madhu Singh**, senior educator from DAV Riverside School and a Life Member of INTACH. Participants enthusiastically answered questions spanning **Indian, Haryana, and Ambala heritage**, as well as INTACH initiatives. An engaging audience round added excitement and encouraged wider participation.

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## Results

1. **First Prize:** Army Public School, Ambala Cantt
2. **Second Prize:** DAV Riverside Public School, Ambala Cantt
3. **Third Prize:** PKR Jain Public School, Ambala City

The winning team from **Army Public School** will represent Ambala at the **State Round** in October/November 2025.



*A Mega National Heritage Quiz – Ambala Chapter*

## 2. INTACH Ambala Chapter – Members’ Meeting

23 July 2025

### Introduction

The INTACH Ambala Chapter regularly conducts members’ meetings to share updates and review progress. To optimise time—especially since most members are working professionals—these meetings are often held alongside ongoing heritage events. The communication regarding the meeting scheduled for 23 July 2025 was circulated via email on 12 July 2025, also inviting agenda points from members. The meeting was seamlessly held in conjunction with the National Heritage Quiz.

### Attendance

The following members were present:

- Dr. Desh Bandhu
- Dr. Bharti Bandhu
- Dr. Vijay Sharma
- Ms. Madhu Singh

- Ms. Seema
- Ms. Shivsi
- Ms. Pooja Anand
- Brig. Anand Karve
- Ms. Reena – Co-Convener
- Col. R. D. Singh – Convener

### **Tribute to Brig. G. S. Lamba**

The meeting commenced with a two-minute silence in memory of former Convener **Brig. G. S. Lamba**, who passed away on 18 April 2025. The Convener shared that he had attended both the funeral and the prayer meeting.

### **Progress of the Meeting**

#### **1. Update on Chapter Activities**

The Convener presented a comprehensive overview of the Chapter's heritage activities conducted over the past year and up to date. He also shared the **Annual Activities Report** submitted to the Chapters Division along with the audited accounts in April 2025. Members expressed their appreciation and pride at the Chapter's achievements, particularly:

- Winning the **Best Chapter Award for the 7th consecutive year**
- Consistent success in **Young INTACH competitions**, reflecting strong value-based education among participating schoolchildren

#### **2. Forthcoming Events**

The Convener and Co-Convener apprised the members of upcoming activities, including:

- **Filmit Workshop** in Chandigarh
- **Endangered Art Workshop**, to be conducted by the Chapter

Co-Convener Ms. Reena, an art educator, volunteered to support the planning and conduct of the endangered art workshop.

#### **3. Formation of the Executive Committee**

The house constituted a new **Executive Committee** for the Ambala Chapter. Along with the Convener and Co-Convener, the committee includes:

- Dr. Desh Bandhu
- Dr. Vijay Sharma
- Ms.

Seema

The committee will convene as required.

#### **4. Audited Accounts (FY 2024–25)**

The audited accounts for FY 2024–25, certified by a Chartered Accountant, were made available to all members. The financial records were noted to be duly maintained.

#### **5. Points from Members**

Members conveyed their satisfaction with the Chapter's functioning and achievements. They expressed their hope that the Chapter's quiz team (Army School) would advance to the national-level competition.

### **Conclusion**

The Convener encouraged all members to continue engaging with the community, promote INTACH's mission, and help expand membership. The meeting closed on a positive note, reaffirming that **INTACH Ambala is progressing with enthusiasm and purpose – true 'Do-Gooders' in action.**



*Young INTACH contest winners*



### 3. Ambala Convener Honoured with Veteran Achievers Award

Colonel R. D. Singh, Convener of the INTACH Ambala Chapter and an esteemed Army veteran, was felicitated with the **'Veteran Achievers Award'** by the Chief of the Army Staff, **General Upendra Dwivedi**, on 3 November in Ambala.

The award recognises his **remarkable contribution to nation-building, social service, and inspiring the youth** to join the Armed Forces. Under his leadership, the INTACH Ambala Chapter has achieved exceptional distinction, winning the **Best Chapter Award for seven consecutive years**.

Beyond his work with INTACH, Colonel Singh is deeply involved in community service. He supports underprivileged children, mentors young people towards healthy and purposeful living, and is a **star blood donor**, having donated blood **102 times** – truly leading by example.



*Ambala Convener, an Army Veteran, Awarded by the Army Chief*

### Faridabad

#### 1. New Young INTACH Club at Waso School, Sector 17, Faridabad

A new **Young INTACH Club** was established at *Waso School*, Sector 17, Faridabad. On this occasion, an **On-the-Spot Heritage Painting Competition** was also organised.

A total of **30 students from Classes 6 to 8** were enrolled as Young INTACH members and were presented with **badges and passports**. The **top five winners** of the painting contest were awarded **INTACH trophies**, marking an inspiring beginning to the club's heritage activities.

## 2. Faridabad National Heritage Quiz – Two-Stage Event

The **Faridabad National Heritage Quiz** was conducted in two phases:

### A) Written Round

A total of **126 students (63 teams)** from **15 CBSE schools** participated in the written test held at **K.L. Mehta Dayanand Women’s College**. Based on performance, **seven teams** qualified for the final quiz round.

### B) Final Round

Among the seven qualifying teams, **K.L. Mehta Dayanand School, Sector 16, Faridabad**, emerged as the winner. The team advanced to the **Haryana State Round in Chandigarh**, where they secured the **2nd position**, narrowly missing the top spot by just two points.



*National Heritage Quiz – Faridabad Chapter*

## Himachal Pradesh

### Dharamshala

#### 1. Kangra Miniature Art Workshop at Achievers’ Hub Senior Secondary School, Dari, Dharamshala

An art workshop on the traditional **Kangra Miniature Painting**—an endangered art form—was organised at **Achievers’ Hub Senior Secondary School, Dari, Dharamshala**, bringing together **50 students** from various schools across the Kangra district.

Renowned master artisans **Shri Mukesh Kumar** and **Shri Manu Sharma** conducted the hands-on sessions, offering rare insights into the techniques and aesthetics of this intricate art tradition. Students greatly appreciated the opportunity to learn directly from traditional experts.

The event was graced by **Divisional Commissioner Shri Vinod Kumar, IAS**, as Chief Guest. Welcoming the dignitaries, **Dr. Narendra Awasthi**, Convener, INTACH Dharamshala Chapter, briefed the audience on the mandate, mission, and activities of INTACH at both chapter and national levels.

The Chief Guest commended the initiative and encouraged students to preserve and promote indigenous art forms. The workshop concluded with an interactive session that left students inspired and motivated.

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## 2. National Heritage Quiz 2025 – Dharamshala Chapter

The INTACH Dharamshala Chapter successfully conducted the **National Heritage Quiz 2025**, promoting awareness and appreciation of India’s cultural and natural heritage among schoolchildren.

- **50 participants** from **six schools** took part in the quiz.

- **Ms. Angana Pathania** and **Mr. Shaurya Kumar** of *Achievers' Hub Sr. Sec. School, Dari* secured **First Position**.
- The winning team will represent the Dharamshala Chapter at the **State-Level Heritage Quiz**.

**Ms. Shilpi Bekta, ADM Kangra**, graced the event as Chief Guest and distributed certificates to winners and participants. She appreciated INTACH's role in sensitising the youth towards heritage conservation. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks, acknowledging the cooperation of all participating schools, teachers, and guests.

## **Kangra**

### **1. Kala Guru Samman Samaroh & Book Release Programme**

INTACH Kangra Chapter and **Sangeetanjali Kala Kendra Society** jointly organised the *Kala Guru Samman Samaroh* and *Pustak Lokarpan Samaroh* at **Radio Gunjan, Dharamshala**. **Divisional Commissioner Shri Vinod Kumar** attended as Chief Guest, while **Sh. K. C. Sharma**, former Election Commissioner of Himachal Pradesh, presided over the event.

### **2. Tribute on Kargil Vijay Diwas**

On **26 July 2025**, Convener **Sh. L. N. Aggarwal** paid homage to the heroes of the Kargil War at the **War Memorial, Dharamshala**.

### **3. Independence Day Celebrations**

Members of the Kangra Chapter celebrated **Azadi Ka Mahotsav** on **15 August 2025**, marking India's Independence Day.

### **4. Felicitation of New CMO, Zonal Hospital**

Kangra Chapter members honoured the newly appointed **Chief Medical Officer** of the Zonal Hospital, Dharamshala, in September 2025.

### **5. Participation in 'Swasth Naari Shashakt Parivar Abhiyan'**

Chapter members participated in the health initiative organised by the **National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP)**.

Dignitaries included:

- **CMO Dr. Vivek Karol** (Chief Guest)
- Convener **L. N. Aggarwal**
- **Mr. Tenzin**, Spokesperson, Govt. of Tibet in Exile
- **Dr. Rajesh Sood**, MOH-cum-DTO
- Superintendent of Police (District Jail) **Vikas Bhatnagar**
- Co-Convener **Rishi Walia**

The event concluded with a visit to the jail premises where tributes were paid to **Lala Lajpat Rai**, who was imprisoned there from April 1922 to January 1923.

### **6. Health Check-Up Camp at Karmapa Monastery**

A health check-up camp organised by the Zonal Hospital, Dharamshala, was supported by INTACH Kangra Chapter.

The programme was presided over by **Rajya Sabha MP Smt. Indu Goswami** as Chief Guest.

**Sh. Sudhir Sharma**, MLA Dharamshala, was the Guest of Honour. Convener **L. N. Aggarwal** attended as Special Guest.



## 7. National Quiz Competition 2025 – Nurpur

The National Heritage Quiz (city round) was held at **Montessori Cambridge School, Raja-ka-Bagh (Nurpur)**, about 80 km from Dharamshala.

- **90 students from nine schools** participated.
- The host school secured **First Position** and will participate in the **State Round** on **10 November 2025 at Mandi**.

*Group photo of the participants in the Quiz competition*



*Members Kangra Chapter honored the CMO, Zonal Hospital*

## Mandi

### 1. Obituary – Dr. R. K. Rajoo

The INTACH Mandi Chapter expresses profound grief at the passing of **Dr. R. K. Rajoo**, a veteran Life Member and respected agricultural scientist, who left for his heavenly abode in Mandi today after a prolonged illness lasting nearly a year.

Dr. Rajoo had been associated with INTACH for over **nine years**, during which he remained an active, enthusiastic, and valued member of the Mandi Chapter. He contributed wholeheartedly to heritage-related programmes and was widely respected for his knowledge, humility, and dedication to community service.

His loss is deeply felt by all who had the privilege of working with him. Several members of the Mandi Chapter attended his last rites to offer their final respects. The INTACH family conveys its heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family and prays for peace to the departed soul.

**May his soul rest in eternal peace.**

### 2. Heritage Walk to Barsela – Mandi Chapter

The INTACH Mandi Chapter organised a **Heritage Walk** for postgraduate students of the Department of History, **Sardar Patel University**, with whom the Chapter has signed an **MoU** for collaborative programmes on the history and heritage of the region.

As part of the walk, students visited **Barsela**, the historic memorial stones of the erstwhile kings of Mandi State and their queens who performed *sati*. This significant heritage landmark, maintained by the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**, dates back to **1650**.

The Barsela stones feature carved images of kings, queens, and a few concubines, along with inscriptions in **Tankri**, the traditional local script. The visit offered students valuable insight into the royal lineage, cultural practices, and artistic traditions of the region, enriching their understanding of Mandi's historical legacy.

## Shimla

### Study Visit of SPA Delhi Students to the Kalka-Shimla Railway (5-11 October 2025)

From 5 October 2025, doctoral students from the Delhi School of Planning and Architecture (SPA) undertook a week-long study of selected sections of the **Kalka-Shimla Railway**, a prestigious UNESCO World Heritage Site.



The State Co-Convener, INTACH Himachal Pradesh, and the Convener, INTACH Shimla Chapter – both of whom had earlier accompanied the UNESCO evaluation team on behalf of the Indian Railways and the Government of Himachal Pradesh during the successful inscription process in 2008 – interacted with the visiting scholars.

They briefed the students on the railway's heritage significance, engineering achievements, architectural features, and the conservation efforts that contributed to its World Heritage recognition. The interaction enriched the students' understanding of the site's historical, technical, and cultural value.

## Jammu & Kashmir

### Jammu

#### Van Mahotsav Plantation Drive at University of Jammu

As part of the **Van Mahotsav** celebrations, the INTACH Jammu Chapter, in collaboration with the **University of Jammu** and **PanchParivartan** NGO, organised a successful



plantation drive at the **Shaheed Bhagat Singh Boys Hostel**, Old Campus, University of Jammu. The initiative was conducted under the **Clean Jammu, Green Jammu** campaign with support from the **Municipal Corporation Jammu** and the **Urban Forestry Division**. The event was coordinated by **Dr. Rajesh Sharma**, Assistant Professor of Buddhist Studies and Warden of the Boys Hostel.

**Dr. S. P. Vaid (IPS Retd.)**, former Director General of Police, J&K, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. A variety of saplings – such as *Sita Ashok*, *Tecoma*, *Panjtara*, *Chinese Rose*, *Mango*, *Chinar*, *Silver Oak*, and *Temple Tree* – were planted. Dr. Vaid also planted a sapling of **Ginkgo biloba**, popularly known as the “living fossil,” considered one of the world's

oldest surviving tree species.

In his welcome address, **Prof. Lalit Sen**, Provost of the Boys Hostel, stressed the urgent need for environmental protection and the role of flora in ecological balance. In his keynote address, Dr. Vaid urged every citizen to plant at least five trees,

highlighting how collective community participation could result in crores of new trees and help combat climate challenges.

Other eminent speakers included **Sh. O. P. Sharma (IFS Retd.)**, who spoke on the cultural and therapeutic value of trees; **Prof. Anil Raina**, who highlighted the effects of deforestation; and **Mrs. Bharti Vaid (IIS Retd.)**, who emphasized turning such green initiatives into a people's movement.



**Sh. S. M. Sahni (JKAS Retd.)**, Convener, INTACH Jammu Chapter, reflected on the drastic environmental changes in Jammu over recent decades, and **Sh. C. M. Seth (IFS Retd.)** stressed the need for urgent afforestation in his vote of thanks. The event was attended by several dignitaries including **Sh. Ashwini Kumar**, DFO Urban Forestry; **Er. Ashok Kapoor**; **Sh. Ajay Gandotra**, Senior Advocate; **Dr. Sudarshan Sharma**, DG DRDO (Retd.); **Sh. Arvind Kotwal**

**(JKAS Retd.)**; **Prof. Rajeshwar Verma**; **Sh. H. R. Dogra**, Advocate; **Dr. Divya Sharma**, VAS & I/C IEC JMC; and **Dr. Rabia Khan**, AFO JMC.

The programme concluded on an inspiring note, with participants pledging to continue working towards a **greener and cleaner Jammu**.

2. In a moment of immense pride for the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), particularly the Jammu Chapter, Maj Gen (Retd.) G.S. Jamwal, AVSM – a 97-year-old stalwart and distinguished veteran of the Indian Army – was ceremoniously inducted as a Life Member of the INTACH Jammu Chapter.

This honour is a recognition of Gen. Jamwal's decades-long association with INTACH



and his steadfast commitment to preserving India's rich cultural and military heritage. The ceremony included the formal presentation of the Life Membership letter and the ceremonious pinning, carried out by Ms. Resham Kashyap, Life Member, along with the Core Group of the INTACH Jammu Chapter.

Gen. Jamwal has been associated with INTACH since its inception in Delhi and became an active member of the Jammu Chapter in 1990-91. Over the years, he has made invaluable contributions as Advisor, Military Heritage, INTACH Jammu Chapter, guiding several initiatives, particularly in documenting and listing the military heritage of the Jammu Cantonment. His induction as a Life Member is a fitting tribute to his legacy and enduring dedication to heritage conservation.

The occasion was graced by S.M. Sahni, Convener, INTACH Jammu Chapter; Kuldeep Wahi, Co-Convener; and Core Group Members including Kripal Singh, Ajay Gandotra,



Rashim Kashyap, and Rakesh Singh (Volunteer). Together, they felicitated the veteran General and celebrated his lifelong service to heritage preservation.

During the ceremony, Shri Kripal Singh, Life Member, INTACH, was also honoured with the INTACH pin by Maj Gen (Retd.) G.S. Jamwal and other Core Group members for his significant contributions in organizing heritage walks at the Royal Dogra Palace Complex, Mubarak Mandi, and other key heritage

sites in Jammu, the historic “City of Temples.”

This induction underscores INTACH’s commitment to honouring individuals who have played a pivotal role in conserving India’s diverse heritage. It also reflects the dedication and dynamism of the INTACH Jammu Chapter as it continues to contribute meaningfully to the national mission of heritage preservation.

### 3. Aarambh – A New Beginning at IDPS Ghoumanhasan

International Delhi Public School, Ghoumanhasan, proudly inaugurated the INTACH



Heritage Club – *Aarambh*, marking a vibrant and purposeful step toward preserving and celebrating our rich cultural heritage.

The ceremony began with the lighting of the lamp and *Saraswati Vandana*, followed by a cultural programme that beautifully captured the essence of Jammu’s traditions. Students enthralled the audience with melodious Dogri songs and spirited folk dances,

reflecting the deep-rooted cultural identity of the region.

The event was honoured by the presence of distinguished guests:

- **Mr. S.M. Sahni, JKAS (Retd.)** – Chief Guest, Convener, INTACH Jammu Chapter
- **Dr. C.M. Seth, IFS (Retd.)** – Guest of Honour, Co-Convener, INTACH JK Chapter
- **Prof. Dr. Anita Billawaria** – Former Co-Convener, INTACH Jammu Chapter
- **Mr. Arvind Kotwal, JKAS (Retd.)** – Coordinator, Heritage Tourism, Jammu Chapter
- **Mr. O.P. Sharma, IFS (Retd.)** – Life Member, INTACH Jammu Chapter
- **Mr. Kulbhushan Kumar Sharma** – Member, INTACH Jammu Chapter

Following the cultural showcase, the celebration transitioned into a Plantation Drive, the club's first environmental initiative.



Under the guidance of renowned environmentalist **Mr. O.P. Vidhyarthi**, students planted 50 saplings, each adopted by a student to ensure its continued care and growth. Mr. Vidhyarthi motivated the young participants with insightful messages on environmental conservation, inspiring them to nurture their green

companions responsibly.

This remarkable event beautifully intertwined heritage and sustainability – beginning with cultural pride and culminating in a meaningful act of environmental stewardship. *Aarambh* truly lived up to its name: a fresh beginning, firmly rooted in tradition and reaching toward a greener, brighter future.

#### 4. Heritage Walk & Raksha Bandhan Celebrations with Soldiers at the International Border, Suchetgarh, Jammu An Initiative of INTACH Jammu Chapter



The students of *Aarambh* – the INTACH Heritage Club of IDPS Ghoumanhasan – undertook a heartfelt and patriotic initiative to celebrate the sacred festival of **Raksha Bandhan** with the brave soldiers stationed at the Suchetgarh International Border.

During the visit, the girl students tied specially handcrafted rakhis to the soldiers, symbolizing affection, respect, and the enduring bond of protection. The boys expressed their gratitude by presenting tokens of appreciation, acknowledging the soldiers' unwavering courage and selfless dedication to safeguarding the nation.

The interaction was filled with emotion, pride, and a deep sense of national spirit. It not only strengthened the students' understanding of India's cultural traditions but also instilled in them profound values of gratitude, respect, and responsibility toward the protectors of our motherland.



Organized under the banner of **Aarambh - The INTACH Heritage Club**, this initiative beautifully embodied the true essence of Raksha Bandhan, reminding everyone that the soldiers of our nation are indeed the steadfast guardians of every citizen.

## Kashmir

### Seminar on 'Enduring Appeal of Traditional Architecture: Lessons for Modern Construction'

14 June 2025

Organized by INTACH Kashmir Chapter in collaboration with the Amar Singh Club, Srinagar. The INTACH Kashmir Chapter, in partnership with the Amar Singh Club, Srinagar, organized a seminar on "**Enduring Appeal of Traditional Architecture: Lessons for Modern Construction**" on 14 June 2025. The event brought together leading experts in architecture, conservation, and planning to discuss how traditional building practices can inform sustainable and culturally rooted contemporary design.

#### Inaugural Session



The seminar began with welcome remarks by **Mr. M. Saleem Beg, Convener, INTACH J&K Chapter**, who emphasized the need to draw from Kashmir's rich architectural traditions while addressing modern development challenges. He underlined that meaningful progress must remain aligned with the region's cultural identity and ecological realities.

The **keynote address** was delivered by **Mr. Qazi Qamar**, Head, School of Architecture, IUST, on "*Vernacular Traditions of Kashmiri Architecture: Lessons for Contemporary Practice.*" He highlighted the climatic responsiveness, material wisdom, and spatial intelligence embedded in traditional Kashmiri architecture and called for integrating this knowledge into modern pedagogy and professional practice.

**Mr. Iftikhar Hakim**, former Chief Town Planner, J&K, spoke on "*Planning in Historic Cities,*" stressing the need for planning policies that balance growth with heritage continuity.

The **Chief Guest, Mr. Nasir Aslam Wani**, Advisor to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, praised Kashmir's architectural legacy as a living cultural asset and reaffirmed the government's support for conservation initiatives. **Mr. Ahsan Pardesi**, Hon'ble MLA, Lal Chowk, also addressed the gathering, reflecting on the timeless beauty of Kashmiri vernacular architecture and the collective responsibility of its preservation.

#### Technical Session

The technical session featured insightful presentations by architects, scholars, and conservation professionals:

- **Ms. Saima Iqbal**, Conservation Architect, INTACH Kashmir Chapter – "*Alternate Solutions for Traditional Materials and Repair Techniques,*" with a focus on lime-based construction.

- **Mr. Mehran Qureshi**, Assistant Professor, IUST – “*Architectonics of a Kashmiri House*,” analyzing spatial order and symbolism in traditional homes.
- **Mr. Umar Farooq**, Assistant Professor, IUST – “*Echoes from the Past*,” exploring cultural memory and continuity in architectural traditions.
- **Ms. Zoya Khan**, Architect – Case studies on adaptive reuse, including **Jamal Mir Heritage House** and **Khwaja Manzil Haveli**, demonstrating conservation-led revitalization.
- **Ms. Asma Nisar Bhat**, Architect – “*Carved Echoes*,” presenting contemporary reinterpretations of Kashmiri aesthetics.
- **Dr. Hakim Sameer Hamdani**, Author and Conservationist – “*Home, House & Heritage*,” reflecting on the emotional and civilizational significance of traditional domestic architecture.



A lively interactive session followed, engaging participants in discussions on the future of traditional design in an evolving urban landscape.

The event was attended by **Mr. Altaf Hussain**, Convener, INTACH Kashmir Chapter, and **Mr. Habibullah Bhat**, Co-Convener. Their support and guidance were instrumental in the successful organization of the seminar.

*Chief Guest, Mr. Nasir Aslam Wani, Advisor to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, speaking at the occasion – Kashmir Chapter*

## **Udhampur (Subchapter-Jammu)**

### **Orientation Programme on Cultural Resource Mapping – Udhampur & Ramnagar Municipal Limits**

*Organized by INTACH Jammu Chapter in collaboration with GCW Udhampur, GDC Boys Udhampur & GDC Ramnagar*

To explore the cultural heritage of Udhampur District, an **Orientation Programme on Cultural Resource Mapping** was conducted by the INTACH Jammu Chapter in collaboration with the **Department of History and Heritage Club, GCW Udhampur**, with participation from students of **GDC Boys Udhampur** and **GDC Ramnagar**. The programme marked the launch of a **15-day Summer Internship Camp** designed to provide hands-on skills and field-based learning in line with the **NEP-2020**.

The initiative focuses on mapping the **tangible, intangible, and natural heritage** of the Udhampur and Ramnagar Municipal limits, and aims to nurture research aptitude, critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and entrepreneurial capacity among students.

#### **Inaugural Session**

**Shri O.P. Sharma, IFS (Retd.)** was the Chief Guest, and **Dr. C.M. Seth, IFS (Retd.)** served as the Guest of Honour.

The programme began with a **plantation drive** in collaboration with the Department of Social Forestry, Udhampur, commemorating *Van Mahotsav Week*. Nearly **200 saplings**

were planted by students, faculty, resource persons, and members of the INTACH Jammu and Udhampur Sub-Chapter.

This was followed by the **lighting of the ceremonial lamp** and a rendition of *Saraswati Vandana* by students of the Music Department, GCW Udhampur.

In her welcome address, **Prof. (Dr.) Nalini Pathania**, Principal, GCW Udhampur, appreciated the collaborative effort of the Heritage Club and participating colleges. She emphasized the responsibility of preserving local cultural identity, heritage, and traditions and encouraged students to contribute voluntarily to conservation initiatives.

#### **Addresses by Resource Persons**

- **Shri O.P. Vidyarthi, IFS (Retd.)**, noted Dogri writer, spoke about the flora and fauna of Udhampur, elaborating on sacred plants, medicinal herbs, and local ecological knowledge.
- **Shri S.M. Sahni**, Convener INTACH Jammu Chapter, outlined INTACH's mission of documenting, conserving, and raising awareness about heritage across India and introduced the key resource persons.
- **Dr. C.M. Seth**, Co-Convener INTACH J&K, highlighted Udhampur's **natural water resources**, including the traditional *Bowlis* and rivers Devika and Tawi, and discussed concerns about their degradation and possible remedies.
- **Prof. Sudhir Singh** stressed the role of **mother tongue** in cultural preservation, underlining how local languages enrich identity, history, and traditions.
- **Shri Anil Paba**, banker and heritage enthusiast, spoke about Udhampur's **built heritage**, including Ramnagar Fort, Krimachi Temples, Sheesh Mahal Ramnagar, Sudh Mahadev Temple, and Babore Temples.
- **Shri Ashok Sharma**, Retd. Senior Lecturer in English, shared insights on the region's **ethnic foods**, festivals, and culinary heritage, including dishes such as *kaladi*, *babroo*, *madra*, *kaddu ka ambal*, *kayur*, and *siyan manday*.
- **Shri Kirpal Singh**, Life Member, INTACH, gave a compelling presentation on **local arts and crafts**, showcasing traditional objects such as *parola*, *charkha*, *khat*, *danda kunda*, handwoven textiles, clay and woodwork, jute craft, and Basohli paintings.
- **Dr. Pankaj Saraswat**, GDC Ramnagar, briefed participants on the structure and objectives of the Summer Internship under NEP-2020 for 5th semester students.

#### **Programme Coordination & Participation**

The proceedings were coordinated by **Prof. Yash Paul**, HOD History and Summer Internship Coordinator, GCW Udhampur. He stressed the importance of preserving local art, architecture, values, and traditions to understand societal evolution.

The programme saw enthusiastic participation from **105 students, 80 faculty and non-teaching staff**, and **15 INTACH members**. An exhibition featuring **local crafts** by artisans from Udhampur, organized by the Department of Handicrafts & Industries, added a rich experiential dimension to the event.



CULTURAL RESOURCE MAPPING of Udhampur Municipal limits, Ramnagar Municipal limits

## Jharkhand Ramgarh(Sub Chapter) Heritage Quiz Contest 2025 - INTACH Ramgarh Sub-Chapter & Zarina Khatoon Museum



Under the joint auspices of the INTACH Ramgarh Sub-Chapter and Zarina Khatoon Museum, Chitarpur, the Heritage Quiz Contest 2025 was successfully organized with the objective of promoting awareness among the youth about India's rich cultural heritage and historical legacy.

Held from 10 AM to 1 PM, the quiz saw enthusiastic participation from 32 students representing Apex Public School, Mecos Public School, Girls Urdu High School, and Darsgah Islami School, Chitarpur. The competition followed a written examination format and featured questions on Indian architecture, archaeology, folk art, and historical monuments.

Diksha Mishra and Suryanshi Kumari from Apex Public School secured the first position, while Arjiya Suhana and Haniya Hussain from Girls Urdu High School won the second position.



The event commenced with a welcome address by Mr. Faiyaz Ahmad, Convener, INTACH Ramgarh Sub-Chapter, followed by an introduction to INTACH by Mohammad Shad. In his remarks, Museum Director Mr. Faiyaz Ahmad stated, "This competition is not only knowledge-enhancing but also an effort

to connect with our roots."

Certificates and honours were presented to all winners and participants, and refreshments were arranged for the students. The programme concluded with a vote of

thanks. The success of the event was made possible through the contributions of **Mr. Wasim Hasan, Mr. Qamar Siddi, and Ms. Gulapsa Khaton.**

## **Karnataka**

### **Bagalkot**

#### **Heritage Drawing Competition**

The **INTACH Bagalkot Chapter** organized a **Heritage Drawing Competition** for students of Classes 8 and 9 on [date] at **SVP Sanstha's Basav Mantap, Badami.** The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from **65 students** who showcased their creativity and understanding of heritage themes through art.

**Miss Mala** from **SVPHS Katapur-Pattadkal** secured the **first prize**, while **Manjunath** from **SVPHS Badami** and **Ningamma** from **SVPHS Katapur-Pattadkal** won the **second** and **third prizes**, respectively. The entries were evaluated by **Shri Dajiba Jagdale**, a noted artist from Badami, who served as the judge for the competition.

The event was graced by **Shri Ramesh Mulimani**, Superintendent Archaeologist, Dharwad Circle, who attended as the **Guest of Honour.**

Convener **Dr. Arun T. Miskin**, Co-convener **Advocate M. S. Hiremath**, and INTACH members **Smt. Sharada Patil, Dr. Giriyappa Kollannavar, Basavaraj Bhagavati, Gayatri Sunkad, Shivarayappa Jogin**, along with family members and several school teachers, were present to support the participants.

The programme successfully encouraged young students to engage with cultural heritage through artistic expression.



*Heritage Drawing competition – Bagalkot Chapter*

## **Belagavi**

### **INTACH Belagavi Chapter Hosts Heritage Quiz 2025**

**25 August 2025 | Belagavi**

The **INTACH Belagavi Chapter** organized the **Heritage Quiz 2025** on 25 August 2025 at the **Bharatesh Education Trust Campus**, witnessing an enthusiastic turnout of **70 students from six schools.**

The competition began with a written preliminary round, from which **four teams** qualified for the final stage. In an engaging and high-energy finale conducted in **audio-visual format**, Quizmaster **Swatee Jog** tested the participants' knowledge of culture, history, and heritage through dynamic and interactive rounds.

**Prasanna Allayyanavarmath** and **Yash Dharmoji** from **Bharatesh English Medium School** emerged as the winners, securing the highest score across the three final rounds. Teams from **KLE International School** claimed the **second** and **third** positions, while **Bharatesh Central School, Halaga** secured the **fourth** place.

All participating teams received **prizes and certificates**. The awards were presented by **Vinod Doddanavar**, Convener, along with Co-conveners **Swatee Jog** and **Kishor Kakade**. Teachers from all participating schools were also present to encourage the students.

The event successfully fostered enthusiasm for heritage awareness among young learners.



*Heritage Quiz on 25th August 2025*

## **2. Deputy Commissioner of Belagavi Joins INTACH Heritage Walk 5 September 2025**

The INTACH Belagavi Chapter organized a special Heritage Walk on Friday, 5th September 2025, from 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM, which was graced by the presence of **Shri Mohammad Roshan, Deputy Commissioner of Belagavi district**, and **Shri Abhinav Jain, IAS**. The walk offered an enriching journey through the layered history, architectural landmarks, and cultural heritage of Belagavi.

The walk was led by **Shri Vinod Doddanavar**, Convener of the INTACH Belagavi Chapter, along with Co-conveners **Mrs. Swatee Jog** and **Shri Kishor Kakade**. Several INTACH members and heritage enthusiasts participated, including **Dr. Smita Surebankar**, **Dr. Rupali Kavilkar**, **Ar. Ashwin Kalmani**, **CA Sanjay Shirguppi**, **Shri Pramod Borannavar**, and **Mrs. Swati Hublikar**.

### **Exploring Belagavi's Heritage**

The walk commenced at the historic **Belagavi Fort**, where the visitors gained insight into the fort's origins, its rulers, architectural features, and the deteriorating condition of its moat. The group then visited the **Kamal Basadi Jain Temple**, an architectural gem from the Ratta period.

The tour continued to the **Ramakrishna Mission Ashram**, which preserves the building where **Swami Vivekananda** stayed for ten days during his visit to Belagavi, followed by a visit to the **Durga Devi Mandir**, showcasing the city's intrinsic cultural diversity.

Participants later explored the **Open Air Museum** in the cantonment area, where several ancient artefacts remain neglected. This was followed by a visit to the **Territorial Army premises**, including the historic **Safa Masjid** and the **British-era gallows**, both significant markers of the region's layered past.

### Encouragement from the Administration

During the walk, Convener Shri Doddanavar briefed Deputy Commissioner Shri Roshan about the diverse heritage of Belagavi. Known for his deep interest in history, Shri Roshan shared valuable insights on heritage conservation and expressed appreciation for INTACH's efforts in preserving the city's cultural assets.

He emphasized the importance of safeguarding Belagavi's temples, Islamic monuments, and colonial structures for future generations, and assured that **several conservation initiatives would be undertaken in collaboration with INTACH** and the district administration.

### Towards a Stronger Conservation Movement

The enthusiastic participation of the Deputy Commissioner and the young IAS officer greatly encouraged INTACH members, reaffirming their mission to protect and promote Belagavi's heritage. Their commitment is expected to strengthen ongoing and upcoming initiatives such as **fort restoration, heritage documentation, awareness programmes, and community-led conservation efforts.**

The walk concluded with an engaging interactive session on sustainable heritage management and community participation.

### About INTACH Belagavi Chapter



Established in 2016, the INTACH Belagavi Chapter has been actively involved in identifying, documenting, and promoting the city's architectural and cultural heritage. Through **heritage walks, competitions, seminars, publications, and outreach programmes**, the chapter aims to build public awareness and pride in Belagavi's unique historical legacy.

*Members of INATCH Belagavi with Dy. Commissioner Mr. Mohd. Roshan and Abhinav Jain-IAS*

### Mangalore

#### 1. INTACH / Art Kanara Trust Presents Retrospective Photography Exhibition Showcasing Yajna's Iconic Works

Mangaluru | July 19, 2025

The INTACH Mangaluru Chapter, in collaboration with Art Kanara Trust, inaugurated a week-long retrospective photography exhibition titled **"MANGALORE, BACK THEN... Through the Eyes of YAJNA"** on July 19 at the Kodialguthu Centre for Art and Culture, Ballalbagh. The exhibition was inaugurated by **V.U. George**, Editor and Publisher of *Mangalore Today*, who served as Chief Guest.

The exhibition features rare archival photographs of Mangaluru and its surrounding regions from the **1970s to the early 2000s**, captured by veteran photojournalist **Yajneshwara Acharya (Yajna)**—a widely respected chronicler of the region’s visual heritage. His evocative black-and-white images document both everyday life and significant events, offering a nostalgic window into Tulunadu’s past.

In his welcome remarks, **Nemiraj Shetty**, Co-convener of INTACH Mangaluru Chapter, noted that the event is a key part of the **Mangalore Art and Archival Project**, which aims to preserve rare visual records of the region.

Chief Guest **V.U. George** shared his long association with Yajna, stating, *“I have yet to meet another photographer whose images hold such emotional depth.”*

Convener **Subhas Chandra Basu** explained that the project also includes recent photographs of the same locations, captured by Yajna alongside photographer **Murali Abbemane** and writer-photographer **Deekshith R. Pai**, creating a visual dialogue between past and present.

Yajna expressed gratitude to the organisers and revealed that he has enough archival material to curate several more exhibitions on various themes.

The exhibition remains open to the public until **July 26**, from **11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.**



*The Chief Guest of the Exhibition - V. U. George, editor and publisher of Mangalore Today – Mangaluru Chapter*

## **2. INTACH Conducts One-Day Traditional Basket Weaving Workshop for Rural Students**

**Manchi-Kolnadu, Bantwal Taluk | August 23, 2025**

The INTACH Mangaluru Chapter, in association with HECS-INTACH and the Heritage Club of Government High School, Manchi-Kolnadu, organised a hands-on workshop on **traditional basket weaving** for rural school children on August 23, 2025.

Traditional craftsman **Shankar Koraga Gutthakadu** and community educator **Supriya** conducted the training through live demonstrations. A total of **67 students** from seven schools in the Manchi cluster participated, working in groups to learn the techniques of weaving and crafting baskets under expert guidance.

INTACH Mangaluru Chapter Convener **Subhash Chandra Basu** stressed the importance of nurturing grassroots artisans and preserving traditional skills that are rapidly disappearing.

Chief Guest **Mrs. Devaki H.**, retired headmistress and alumna of the host school,

encouraged students to value hand-skills that can both inspire creativity and offer livelihood opportunities.

School Betterment Committee President **Shivashankar Rao Manchi** remarked that such workshops contribute significantly to students' overall personality development.

Members of the INTACH team, school faculty, and alumni representatives were present. Copies of the *Young INTACH* newsletter were distributed to all participating schools. Coordinator **Taranath Kairangala** welcomed the gathering, and Headmistress **Mrs. Sushila** proposed the vote of thanks.



*One-Day Traditional Basket Weaving Workshop for Rural School Children – Mangarulu Chapter*

### **3. INTACH to Showcase Photographic Exhibition on Mangalorean Catholic Heritage Houses**

**Mangaluru | October 4-11, 2025**

The INTACH Mangaluru Chapter will present a week-long exhibition titled “**Album of the Porches**”, documenting traditional **Mangalorean Catholic heritage houses**, from



**October 4 to 11, 2025**, at the Kodialguthu Centre for Art and Culture, Ballalbagh. The exhibition will be inaugurated by **Ronald Gomes**, President CASK, at 5:30 p.m. on October 4.

The project has documented **27 traditional Catholic homes**, capturing their distinctive architectural features – European influences blended with local styles, airy verandas, private devotional

spaces, and the iconic Mangalore-tiled roofs. Several houses are still occupied, while others have been abandoned, sold, or demolished, making the documentation a vital record for posterity.

The project is led by **Subhas Basu**, Convener, INTACH Mangaluru Chapter, with photography by **Murali Abbemane** and research by **Sharvani Bhat**. Expert insights were contributed by **Harriet Vidyasagar**, **Dr. Michael Lobo**, **Nayana Fernandes**, and **Vincent D'Souza**.

Notable houses include:



- **Ferndale**, associated with Dr. Lawrence Fernandes and the legacy of Father Muller Hospital
  - **Nandigudda House**, connected to the Lobo family
  - **Camelot**, home of genealogist Dr. Michael Lobo
- An accompanying **album-book** is being planned to preserve the visual and cultural record created through this initiative.

#### 4. INTACH Hosts Talk on Wildlife Conservation by Praveen Bhargav Mangaluru | October 17, 2025

The INTACH Mangaluru Chapter hosted an insightful talk by noted wildlife conservationist **Praveen Bhargav** on “**Wildlife Conservation in a Human-Dominated Landscape**” at the Kodialguthu Centre for Art and Culture on October 15, 2025. Bhargav, Managing Trustee of Wildlife First and a former member of the National Board of Wildlife, discussed India’s forest cover, wildlife populations, and the threats posed by habitat fragmentation. He shared key statistics:

- **4 lakh sq. km** of forest cover
- Only **1.67 lakh sq. km** (about 4%) designated as protected areas
- India’s wildlife population estimates today include **2,500–2,900 tigers, 3,000–4,000 lion-tailed macaques, 300–400 Asiatic lions, and 25,000–27,000 elephants**

He emphasized that infrastructure development across sensitive landscapes like the Western Ghats often disrupts habitats unnecessarily. Balanced and eco-sensitive planning, he said, can help prevent irreversible damage.

Bhargav also highlighted the urgent need to combat the illegal wildlife trade—the world’s second-largest illegal trade—and called for a specialized enforcement mechanism.

The programme was coordinated by **Niren Jain**, Co-convener, INTACH Mangaluru Chapter, and concluded with remarks by Convener **Subhas Basu**.



*Talk on Wildlife Conservation by Praveen Bhargav – Mangaluru Chapter*

**Kerala  
Kasargod**

### 1. World Environment Day Celebration at Ezhimala Naval Academy



World Environment Day was celebrated at the Ezhimala Naval Academy with the planting of **1,000 mangrove saplings** along the riverbank. The initiative, led by **Commodore Sreekumaran Pillai** in association with the **INTACH Kasaragod Chapter**, aimed to promote environmental awareness and highlight the importance of mangrove ecosystems. Naval officers and cadets actively participated, reinforcing the Academy's

commitment to ecological stewardship.

### 2. World Environment Day Celebration at AUP School Udinur Central



Folkland, in association with the **INTACH Kasaragod Chapter**, organized a World Environment Day celebration at AUP School Udinur Central based on the theme **"Environmental Conservation - Our Responsibility."**

The event was inaugurated by **Dr. V. Jayarajan**, Chairman of Folkland and General Secretary of ICCN, who emphasized the need for collective action in preserving the environment.

### 3. Varnamrittika - Mural Painting Exhibition

Folkland, with the support of the INTACH Kasaragod Chapter, the Department of Handicrafts (Ministry of Textiles), and CSR partner Dorf Ketel, organized



**Varnamrittika** on **16 June 2025**, celebrating Kerala's rich mural art tradition. The exhibition featured works of **21 trainees** who successfully completed a two-month Samarth Scheme training in mural painting. The event was inaugurated by **Smt. K.V. Lalitha**, Chairperson, Payyanur Municipality, and graced by **Padma Shri Narayanan Peruvannan**.

### 4. Folkland's Cultural Initiative in New Delhi

Folkland, in collaboration with Rag Virag Education and Culture Society and the INTACH Kasaragod Chapter, conducted a **10-day intensive Kathak Dance Workshop** from **21-30 June 2025** at Rag Virag Studio, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi. Led by renowned Kathak exponent **Smt. Punita Sharma** and supported by the CSR wing



of Dorf Ketel Chemicals India, the workshop trained **45 learners** and concluded with a graceful public performance showcasing the elegance and discipline of Kathak.

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#### 5. Kathakali Demonstration at Pilicode (23 June 2025)

INTACH Kasaragod Chapter organized a Kathakali demonstration at C.K.N.S.

**GHSS, Pilicode**, led by **Kalmandalam Narayanan Namboothiri**. Inaugurated by Headmistress **Smt. Latha**, the session engaged over **120 students**, offering them an immersive introduction to Kerala's classical dance-drama tradition.

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#### 6. Kathakali Demonstration at GHSS Hosdurg (10 September 2025)

A second Kathakali demonstration was conducted at **GHSS Hosdurg**, Kasaragod, led by **Kalmandalam Narayanan Namboothiri**. Over **120 students** participated, strengthening cultural awareness and appreciation for Kerala's traditional performing arts.

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#### 7. INTACH Heritage Quiz Series - Kasaragod District (September 2025)

To promote heritage awareness and cultural literacy, the INTACH Kasaragod Chapter organized a series of Heritage Quiz Competitions across three schools:



- **GHSS Kanhangad South - 12 August 2025**

*22 students participated.*

The event began with a welcome by **Sri. Sreedev M.V.** and an introduction to INTACH by **Ms. Rajitha Rajan**, eminent folk dancer and conservation specialist.

- **Hosdurg Kanhangad - 10 September 2025**

*20 students participated.*

The quiz encouraged healthy competition and deepened students'

understanding of India's cultural legacy.

- **Rajas Higher Secondary School, Nileshwaram - 22 September 2025**

*92 students participated.*

Conducted by **Ms. Rajitha V.M.** and **Mr. Vyshak K.**, the session was highly interactive and intellectually stimulating.

The Principal appreciated the initiative and encouraged students to explore heritage beyond textbooks.

## 8. Nadanpattu Performance - World Folklore Day Celebration

On 22 August 2025, Folkland, in association with the INTACH Kasaragod Chapter and supported by Dorf Ketel Chemicals India, celebrated **World Folklore Day** at Payyanur College and Sir Syed College, Taliparamba.



The event featured soulful **Kerala folk songs (Nadanpattu)** by **Janardhanan Pudusseri**, encouraging student participation. The programme was coordinated by **Dr. Anila Sunil, Rajitha**

**Rajan, and K. Sureshan.**

## 9. MELA PADAM - Arangettam of Pancharimelam Students

The grand cultural event "*MELA PADAM*" was held on May 11, 2025, at the Sreevalasam Auditorium. This prestigious occasion marked the **Arangettam (debut performance)** of **40 students** from UNIQUE Kokkanissery, who were trained in the traditional art of *Pancharimelam* under the able guidance of **Vadyacharya Payyanur Sudhi**.

Organized by **Folkland International Centre for Folklore and Culture**, in association with the **INTACH Kasaragod Chapter**, the event stood as a significant cultural milestone. It showcased the dedication, discipline, and artistic growth of young learners deeply immersed in Kerala's vibrant percussion heritage.



*MELA PADAM - Arangettam of Pancharimelam Students*

## Palakkad

### **Living Legacies, Thriving Futures: A Workshop for Palakkad Heritage**

Marking a decade of dedicated heritage work, the INTACH Palakkad Chapter organised a milestone workshop titled "*Living Legacies, Thriving Futures*" to review its achievements and outline priorities for the coming years.

The programme began with opening remarks by Chapter Convener **Arun Narayan**, who presented a brief yet comprehensive overview of the chapter's initiatives and growth over the last ten years. The highlight of the event was a thought-provoking panel discussion moderated by senior member **Subhash**.

The panel brought together three eminent experts, each offering distinct insights into Palakkad's evolving landscape and the critical relevance of heritage conservation:



- **E.P. Unny**, renowned political cartoonist and writer, presented perspectives from the media and narrative sector.
- **Dr. Vellinezhi Achuthankutty**, eminent performance arts scholar and polymath, reflected on the cultural and artistic milieu of the region.
- **Dr. Viswanath**, CEO of Athachi Group, shared views from the industry and natural wellness sector.

The interactive discussions generated a rich pool of ideas and potential project avenues for the chapter's future endeavours. All suggestions and insights shared during the workshop were carefully documented and will be consolidated into the chapter's upcoming annual work plan, setting a strong foundation for its next phase of activities.

## Thrissur Obituary

**1. The Thrissur Chapter deeply mourns the passing of our esteemed Life Member, Shri Er. Chembath Achutha Menon (L/15944), a retired Engineer, who departed for his heavenly abode on 21 April 2025.**



Even after retirement, Shri Achutha Menon remained an active and committed presence in the Chapter, contributing generously to its initiatives. His technical expertise, humility, and unwavering enthusiasm inspired all who worked with him and left a lasting impression on the INTACH community.

His untimely demise is an irreparable loss to the Chapter. We bid farewell to a sincere, knowledgeable, and dedicated member.

**May his soul rest in eternal peace.**

**2. With profound sorrow, we announce the passing of our respected member, Shri C.**



**K. N. Thampi (AL/16403), on 28 September 2025.**

He was a valued part of our INTACH family, remembered for his quiet dedication and steadfast support for the Chapter's activities. His loss is deeply felt by all who knew him.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and pray for his soul to attain eternal peace.

**3. Exploring the Past: INTACH's Manuscript Session at Brahmaswom Madhom and Interaction with Officials (14 October 2025)**

The INTACH Thrissur Chapter organised a special visit to the Manuscript Section at Sree Shankara Hall, Brahmaswom Madhom, where experts demonstrated the meticulous process involved in manuscript documentation and preservation. The session offered



members valuable insights into the traditional methods used to safeguard Kerala's manuscript heritage.

During the visit, Ms. Vijaya, Director - Architectural Heritage Division, INTACH, handed over reprinted copies of the *Brahmaswom Madhom* book to Adv. Parameshwaran Namboothiri, President, Brahmaswom Madhom, marking a significant moment of collaboration.

Following this, an interactive session titled "Connect and Collaborate" was held at Hotel Moti Mahal. Members of the INTACH Thrissur Chapter discussed various conservation and renovation initiatives undertaken in recent years. The platform enabled meaningful exchanges between chapter members and officials from the Architectural Heritage Division, strengthening future avenues for partnership and heritage conservation efforts.

#### 4. Kuruthola Craft Workshop (30 October 2025)

A Kuruthola Craft Workshop was organised at Kulapathi Munshi Bhavan's Vidyamandir, Pottore, on 30 October 2025, under INTACH's HECS initiative "Discover



the Importance of Living Heritage." The workshop was facilitated by Kuruthola Alangaram artist **Navneeth Chero**, who introduced students to the traditional craft of working with tender coconut leaves.

The workshop saw enthusiastic participation from around 30-35 students. Under expert guidance, the students learned to create a variety of

intricate items such as fish, snakes, *ola peepi* (leaf whistle), and other decorative pieces – displaying creativity, curiosity, and appreciation for traditional craft practices.

Key INTACH participants included Convener **Vinod Kumar M. M.**, members **Sujith** and **Krishna**, and volunteer **Punnya**, whose coordinated efforts ensured the success of the workshop. From the school, **Dr. Bindu** (Principal) and **Ms. Jaimol** (INTACH in-charge) attended the programme and commended the initiative for providing students with hands-on exposure to India's living heritage traditions.

The workshop effectively blended art, culture, and sustainability, encouraging young learners to recognise the significance of preserving traditional crafts that reflect India's rich cultural legacy.



*Kuruthola Craft Workshop – Thrissur Chapter*

## **Madhya Pradesh**

### **Burhanpur**

#### **1. Quiz Competition and Prize Distribution at RSET Institution, Burhanpur (6 August 2025)**

In alignment with the directives of INTACH Central Office, Delhi, the INTACH Burhanpur Chapter organized a Quiz Competition followed by a prize distribution ceremony at the RSET Institution, Burhanpur, on 6 August 2025.

A total of **88 students from rural areas** of Burhanpur district – currently enrolled in self-employment programmes at various Government of India-supported institutions under the Bank of India (BOI) – participated with great enthusiasm.

The programme was presided over by **Mr. Naresh Sendre**, Director, RSET-I. **Mr. Vijay Rathore**, Director, Gyandeept ITI, Shahpur, graced the occasion as Chief Guest, while **Mr. Suresh Chaudhary**, Acharya, Gayatri Gurukul, joined as the Special Guest.

#### **Prize Winners:**

- **First Prize:** Ms. Deepali Kushwaha and Ms. Anita Gadarian from Balwada, Jainabad, District Burhanpur – awarded a shield and a set of books.
- **Second Prize:** Ms. Kavita Chauhan and her teammate from Loni village, Nasirabad, Burhanpur – awarded medals and a set of books.
- **Participation Certificates:** Distributed to all 88 students.

During their addresses, the distinguished guests motivated participants by sharing the inspiring journey of former Prime Minister **Lal Bahadur Shastri Ji** and emphasised that children from rural backgrounds possess equal potential. They noted with pride that today both the Hon'ble Prime Minister, **Shri Narendra Modi**, and the Hon'ble President of India hail from humble rural origins and lead the nation with distinction.

They also appreciated INTACH's efforts to empower rural youth through meaningful, knowledge-based initiatives.

**Coordinator Mr. Hoshang Havaladar** concluded the quiz session with a presentation on INTACH, highlighting India's cultural, natural, and historical heritage and the importance of its preservation.

On behalf of INTACH, **Professor Virendra Nirjhar** expressed heartfelt gratitude to the guests, participating students, and INTACH members – including **Mr. Satish Gujarati**, **Mr. Satish Tamrakar**, **Mr. Chandrakant Shroff**, **Mr. Rajendra Khadiwala**, **Mr. Satyanarayan Laddha**, **Mr. Shalikram Chaudhary**, **Mr. Sharad Dalal**, **Mr. Gopal Devkar**, **Mr. Shahrukh Bhai Havaladar**, **Mrs. Daisy Havaladar**, and all colleagues – for their presence, support, and participation in the luncheon, which contributed significantly to the program's success.

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## 2. Tribute to Mahatma Gandhi and Cleanliness Drive at Shahi Qila (2 October 2025)

On Thursday, 2 October 2025, INTACH colleagues gathered at Shahi Qila at 8:30 a.m. to pay homage to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. (Since Satiara Ghat – the site where Gandhiji’s ashes were immersed – was affected by mud, dirt, and water, the programme was shifted to Shahi Qila.)

INTACH members also participated in a cleanliness drive alongside officials from the Archaeological Survey of India and India Tourism, Ministry of Tourism (Indore). Assistant Director Mr. A. Gopal Ji, along with his colleague Mr. Jai Tiwari, was present for the occasion.

Floral tributes were offered to Mahatma Gandhi, and participants also remembered and honoured former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri on his birth anniversary.

INTACH colleagues, ASI staff, India Tourism officials, and local residents contributed wholeheartedly to the tribute and the cleanliness campaign. Their collective efforts reflected deep respect for national icons and strengthened the spirit of community service.

### Chanderi

The inaugural meeting of the INTACH Chanderi Chapter was held under the chief patronage of Neelkamal Maheshwari, INTACH National Executive Member and DRUC Member, North Central Railway, and chaired by senior INTACH Chapter member Umesh Purohit. Arun Somani was appointed as the new Convener of the Chanderi Chapter, with Muzaffar Ansari Kalle Bhai as Co-Convener. Speaking on the occasion, National Executive Member Neelkamal Maheshwari explained the origins of INTACH. He noted that the late Indira Gandhi had advised Rajiv Gandhi to take measures to preserve India’s historical and cultural heritage, which led to the establishment of INTACH in 1984. Initially, the organization included descendants of kings and maharajas as well as IAS officers as its members. Since then, INTACH has been dedicated to the conservation of India’s cultural and historical heritage. Today, the organization has 239 chapters across India with thousands of active members.

Senior member Umesh Purohit offered valuable suggestions for preserving historical heritage through the Chanderi Chapter. The newly appointed Chapter Convener, social activist Arun Somani, emphasized that Chanderi is a historic city, and efforts will be made to protect its archaeological heritage and artifacts from damage. He stated that programs would be organized to celebrate traditional festivals of all religions and communities, and the chapter will hold regular meetings to consider suggestions from all members. Initiatives will also focus on promoting tourism in Chanderi, supporting the hotel industry, and strengthening the organization. Earlier, Co-Convener Muzaffar Ansari suggested spreading awareness about archaeological heritage among school students through the Chanderi Chapter. Present INTACH members, including author Majeed Khan Pathan, Ramkishore Mishra, and Dr. Avinash Jain, introduced themselves and shared valuable suggestions. The meeting was conducted by D.B. Jain, and the vote of thanks was delivered by Co-Convener Muzaffar Ansari Kalle Bhai.



*Chapter Meeting - Chanderi Chapter*

## **Datia**

The Datia Heritage Quiz winner was the Saraswati Vidya Mandir team, while the runner-up was the Girls High School Holipura. Raja Kaithale and Nancy Kushwaha won in the painting competition. Quiz events like this promote intellectual development and enhance students' imagination - Dr. Arvind Singh Rana

The India Heritage Quiz, organized by the INTACH Datia Chapter was held at Saraswati Vidya Mandir Bundela Nagar. The Saraswati Vidya Mandir team won the prize and was selected for the state-level quiz. The second-place winner was the Government Girls School Holipura. Third place went to Sant Ravi Shankar High School and the winning team from Government Secondary School No. 2. The winning teams will participate in the state-level quiz.

Along with this, in the Dr. Madhu Srivastava Memorial Painting Competition, Raja Kethaile stood first, Tamanna Ahirwar stood second, Unnati Pal stood third and Raveena Tiwari and Harshita Raikwar won the consolation prize, whereas in the junior category, Nancy Kushwaha stood first, Neha Prajapati second, Tanya Ujjainiya and Arya Rawat third and Prachi Kushwaha stood victorious.

The program was inaugurated by District Sports Officer Dr. Arvind Singh Rana and Principal Kapil Tambe by worshipping Goddess Saraswati and garlanding the portrait of Dr. Madhu Srivastava.

Guests were welcomed by Uma Charan Sharma, Ram Shri Mishra, Sanjay Rawat, and INTEX members. A detailed discussion on the program outline was held by Vinod Mishra. On this occasion, Quiz Masters Rishiraj Mishra and Dharmendra Agarwal, Akanksha Rawat, declared the quiz successful as per the rules. Painting judges Amar Soni, Jhansi Santosh Kumar, Kendriya Vidyalaya Rashmi Katare, Dr. Astha Bhardwaj, and Stuti Chauda, reviewed the paintings of approximately 100 students and gave their verdict.

In his address, Chief Guest Dr. Arvind Singh Rana said that competitions like this enhance our intellectual level, while painting competitions showcase students' color combinations and imagination. He congratulated all the winners of this competition and said that such applications are meaningful for society and the school. On this occasion, Principal Kapil Tambe, in his presidential address, expressed his views on the usefulness of painting and quizzes and praised INTEX's events. In the end, Umacharan Sharma, coordinator of the competition, expressed his gratitude. Radhavallabh Mishra, Dinesh Srivastava, Jhansi, Ramshree participated in the program. Mishra, Arvind Pachauri, Akanksha Rawat, Acharya Khare, Didi Srivastava, and others were present.



*Datia Heritage Quiz – Datia Chapter*

## **Dhar**

### **1. Children’s Faces Light Up as Quiz Winners Receive Prizes INTACH’s City-Level Heritage Quiz Concludes**

INTACH, working for heritage education and conservation, organized a city-level heritage quiz today at Utkrisht Vidyalaya. A total of 75 students and teachers from five schools, representing grades 7 to 10, participated in the quiz. Exciting rounds of competition were held between the teams Jahaz Mahal, Hindola Mahal, Rani Roopmati, and Jal Mahal.

Announcing the winners, Dr. Deependra Sharma, Member, INTACH Governing Council and Dhar Chapter Convener stated that the quiz aimed to explore heritage, culture, tangible and intangible arts, and personality development, while simultaneously promoting education. He praised the children for their outstanding performance, noting they were truly deserving of the prizes. Audience members also participated by answering questions and receiving prizes.

#### **Results:**

- First Place: Mayank Nalvaya and Mohammad Zuber (Hindola Mahal team, Government Excellence School)
- Second Place: Akshara Thakur and Arya Sharma (Jahaz Mahal team)
- Third Place: Nivedita and Yashika Gehlot (Rani Rupmati team)
- Consolation Prize: Nitya Rathod and Premlata Solanki (Jal Mahal team)

The quiz was conducted by Shyam Sharma, with Mrs. Rani Thakur as coordinator. Rajendra Rathore, Tisha Thakur, Reena Rathore, and Yogita Devda served as timers. The children successfully completed the five-stage quiz, qualifying them for the state-level

competition. INTACH Life Member Harihar Dutt Shukla and Dr. Sadhana Chauhan were also present.

### Heritage Walk

The participants were taken on a heritage walk to explore Vikram Gyan Mandir, a heritage building constructed in 1945 in the Lal Bagh complex, and the statues of Rana Bakhtawar Singh and Rabindranath Tagore. For many children, this was their first visit to these sites, providing them an opportunity to ask questions and learn about their history. Coordinator Reena Thakur expressed her gratitude. The children were also provided with four snack items of their choice.

### Gwalior

#### **Two-Day Photography Exhibition by INTACH Gwalior Chapter 18-19 August 2025**

The INTACH Gwalior Chapter, in collaboration with the Gwalior Photography Club, successfully organized a two-day Photography Exhibition on the theme “**Historic Monuments of Madhya Pradesh: Our Living Heritage.**”

#### **Inaugural Session**

The exhibition was inaugurated by **Shri Nitin Katare**, Regional Manager, Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board, in the presence of INTACH Gwalior Chapter members. INTACH Governing Council Members **Shri Neelkamal Maheshwari** and **Shri Rajiv Tomar** also graced the event with their esteemed presence.

The exhibition drew an enthusiastic response from students, schools, and photography enthusiasts. After the inauguration, the Chief Guest interacted with visitors and students, highlighting the role of photography in promoting tourism and discussing its potential as a promising career path.

#### **School Participation**

Special invitations were extended to schools where INTACH Heritage Clubs are active. Students visited the exhibition with great interest:

#### **Day 1 - 18 August**

- Greenwood Public School, Adityapuram
- Rishi Galav Public School

#### **Day 2 - 19 August**

- Gwalior Glory High School
- IATS Public School
- Rise International School

#### **Activities & Guidance**

On the second day, senior photographers and INTACH Gwalior Chapter members interacted with students, offering valuable insights into photography techniques. Their engagement reflected the students’ curiosity and eagerness to explore heritage through the lens of a camera.

Chapter Convener **Shri Vikas Singh** also briefed teachers and students on:

- The work and vision of INTACH Gwalior Chapter
- The significance of Gwalior’s heritage
- The importance and future plans of heritage walks
- Upcoming INTACH initiatives

- The role and benefits of establishing Heritage Clubs in schools

### **Closing & Acknowledgment**

Members of the Gwalior Photography Club joined the concluding session. Tea and snacks were served on both days, creating a warm and interactive atmosphere.

Chapter Convener **Shri Vikas Singh** expressed heartfelt gratitude to INTACH Chairman **Shri Ashok Singh Thakur** for his guidance and support, assuring that the Gwalior Chapter will continue to move “step by step” in close alignment with INTACH Head Office.

The exhibition not only showcased the rich heritage of Madhya Pradesh’s historic monuments but also inspired students and the general public to appreciate and engage with heritage through the art of photography.



*School Participation on Two-Day Photography Exhibition*

## 2. INTACH National Heritage Quiz – City Round (Gwalior)

The INTACH National Heritage Quiz – City Round was organized by the INTACH Gwalior Chapter on 6 September 2025. The event received an enthusiastic response, with 188 students from 11 prominent schools participating. Venue was India’s premier Boarding School Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya.

The competition began with a written preliminary round (20 questions in 30 minutes), from which five teams qualified for the on-stage finale:

1. Gwalior Glory High School
2. Greenwood Public School, Adityapuram
3. Rishi Galav Public School
4. Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya
5. IATS Public School

The on-stage quiz comprised five rounds covering India’s tangible and intangible heritage, architecture, traditions, personalities, and the heritage of Madhya Pradesh and Gwalior.

After an intense competition, Gwalior Glory High School (Master Sajal Chaturvedi and Master Ashnendra Gubrele) secured the first position and will represent Gwalior in the State Round.

The event was attended by Shri Vikas Singh, Convener, INTACH Gwalior Chapter, along with co-conveners Shri Chandradeep Singh, GC members Shri Neelkamal

Maheshwari, Shri Rajeev Tomar and other chapter representatives. Winners received trophies, certificates, and books, and refreshments were arranged for all participants. The quiz successfully promoted awareness of India's rich cultural heritage and encouraged students to deepen their interest in its preservation.



*National Heritage Quiz – City Round – Gwalior Chapter*

### 3. Report on the Workshop on Endangered Art – Chitera Painting

INTACH Gwalior Chapter organized a one-day workshop on the endangered traditional art form *Chitera Painting* at Simpkins Public School, Gwalior. The initiative aimed to promote awareness and preserve India's cultural heritage, particularly the unique folk art practiced by the Chitera community of Chitera Oli in Gwalior.

A total of **89 students** from **seven schools** – Gwalior Glory High School, Bhartiya Vidya Niketan, Doon Public School, Simpkins Public School, IATS Public School, Billabong High International School, and Delhi Public World School – participated in the workshop.



The session began with an introduction by **Mr. Vikas Singh**, Convener, INTACH Gwalior Chapter, who shared the historical and cultural relevance of Chitera art. Traditional artisan **Shri Hari Ji**, one of the few remaining artists of this lineage, demonstrated the preparation of natural colors and taught students the traditional techniques of the art form. All workshop materials and refreshments for teacher coordinators were provided by the Chapter.

The event was graced by INTACH Governing Council Members **Shri Neelkamal Maheshwari**, **Shri Rajeev Tomar**, **Shri Chandradeep Singh** (Co-convener, INTACH Gwalior), and School Director **Shri Rohit Saxena**, who was presented with a memento. The workshop received an overwhelming response, reflecting INTACH's dedication to heritage education and cultural preservation among school students.



*Workshop on endangered art Chitera Painting – Gwalior Chapter*

### 5. Madhya Pradesh State Round of INTACH National Heritage Quiz 2025 Held in Gwalior

The Madhya Pradesh State Round of the INTACH National Heritage Quiz 2025 was successfully conducted on 25 October 2025 at Gwalior Glory High School, Gwalior. Five teams had given confirmation from 11 INTACH Chapters across the state, of which three teams – Gwalior, Datia and Mandla – participated in the final round.

The quiz featured five thematic rounds on Personalities, Monuments, Intangible Heritage, Natural Heritage, and Mythology & Epics, offering an engaging and competitive platform to young heritage enthusiasts.

The Mandla team from Nirmala Senior Secondary School, Lalitpur (Mandla) – comprising Harshika Sonkesri and Anshika Yadav – emerged as the State Winners. The Datia team (Radha Dwivedi & Anamika Rawat, Saraswati Vidya Mandir) secured the First Runner-up position, followed by the Gwalior team (Sajal Chaturvedi & Ashnendra Gubrele, Gwalior Glory High School) as Second Runner-up.

The event was graced by INTACH Governing Council Members Shri Neelkamal Maheshwari and Shri Rajiv Tomar, along with INTACH Chapter Conveners Vikas Singh Co-convenor Shri Chandradeep Singh, Shri Vinod Mishra (Convener Datia Chapter) the program. School Principal Mrs. Rajeshwari sawant and other school dignitaries were also present. The Gwalior Chapter ensured complete hospitality for participating teams, including stay, meals, and travel arrangements.

Winners were awarded trophies and INTACH publications, while all participants received copies of the National Heritage Olympiad book and Vedic Mathematics authored by Shri Vikas Singh, Convener, INTACH Gwalior Chapter. Runner-up teams were also felicitated with trophies and publications.



*National Heritage Quiz 2025 – Gwalior Chapter*

### **Khajuraho**

## INTACH National Heritage Quiz Contest Concludes in Khajuraho “Children Test Their Understanding of Heritage”

*Khajuraho, 24 September*

The INTACH Khajuraho Chapter successfully organized the **INTACH National Heritage Quiz Contest** at **Sacred Heart Convent High School, Khajuraho**. More than **65 students** from Sacred Heart Convent High School, Wonder Kids, and Vivek Sagar Secondary School enthusiastically participated in the event.

As per the directions of INTACH National President **Shri Ashok Singh Thakur**, all participating students received certificates and gifts. National Executive Member **Shri Neelkamal Maheshwari** thanked the participating schools and announced that the winning team would advance to the next round in Gwalior. Teams excelling there would qualify for the national-level contest in Delhi, with all expenses sponsored by INTACH. Convener **Ajay Kashyap** announced the results. Students from **Sacred Heart Convent High School** secured both **first and second positions**, while the team from **Wonder Kids School** won **third place**.

The event was attended by Convener **Hargovind Tiwari**, Patron **Dr. Murad Ali**, and Executive Members **Abhijeet Osmond** and **Karan Singh**. Special appreciation was extended to the school’s Principal, **Sister Selvi**, for her support in ensuring the success of the competition.

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## INTACH Khajuraho Chapter Meeting Held

*Khajuraho, 23 September*

The INTACH Khajuraho Chapter convened a meeting on Tuesday at a private restaurant in Khajuraho, with a large number of members participating. The meeting was chaired by National Executive Member **Dr. Neelkamal Maheshwari**, who highlighted INTACH’s efforts in preserving and promoting local cultural heritage.

Newly appointed Convener **Ajay Kashyap** welcomed and felicitated Dr. Maheshwari. The meeting was conducted by **Anuj Jain**, and the vote of thanks was proposed by **Govind Rajak**.

Under the guidance of National President **Shri Ashok Singh Thakur**, members discussed practical steps for safeguarding heritage sites in and around Khajuraho. It was unanimously agreed that collaborative efforts are essential for effective conservation.

Several members attended the meeting, including **Dr. Murad Ali**, **Rajiv Shukla**, **Devendra Chaturvedi**, **Tulsidas Soni**, **Diwakar Patel**, **Abhijeet Osmond**, **Karan Singh**, **Lokendra Singh**, **Bahadur Pal**, **Gopal Gautam**, **Pradeep Gautam**, and **Devendra Tiwari**, among others.

During the meeting, the **INTACH Khajuraho Executive Committee** was also constituted. The newly assigned responsibilities include:

- **Dr. Murad Ali** – Patron
- **Narayan Singh Bhayal** – Member
- **Anoop Jain** – Member
- **Abhijeet Osmond** – Member
- **Hargovind Tiwari** – Co-Convener

## Mandla

Our country’s ancient heritage is a priceless national asset, and protecting it is the moral responsibility of every citizen. This message was delivered by Mr. Deepak Khandekar,

former Secretary for Tribal Development, Government of India, and State Convener INTACH, during a teacher training program held at DIET. Addressing the teachers, he emphasized that they serve as a bridge between society and the government and urged them to educate the younger generation about the history and significance of our heritage.

During the program, Retd. Brigadier Mr. Vipin Trivedi from the Ministry of Defence also addressed the gathering. He encouraged teachers to familiarize students with India's heritage and to promote Indian culture and art by regularly conducting heritage-related training and activities in schools.

State Additional Convener Mr. Sanjay Malhotra informed participants that INTACH not only works to preserve national heritage but also promotes Indian civilization and culture. Through workshops, the organization educates young students so they can learn about national heritage as well as traditional folk arts, crafts, and literature.

A two-day workshop was organized by the Mandla Chapter, attended by 50 teachers from government and private schools. INTACH Master Trainers Mr. Abhishek Das and Mr. Deepanshu from the INTACH Central Office in New Delhi explained the significance and structure of Heritage Clubs. They trained teachers on how to identify and conserve local heritage sites and how to create awareness in society. All participants received two full days of training. On the second day, the teachers visited Ramnagar Fort to study its heritage importance, followed by a group discussion.

The program was organized under the direction of Collector Mandla, Shri Somesh Mishra, and with the guidance of Chief Executive Officer, District Panchayat, Shri Shreyansh Kumth. Valuable support came from the District Education Officer and the Assistant Tribal Development Board.

Special contributions were made by APC Shri Mukesh Pandey, INTACH Conveners Arun Agarwal, Arvind Shukla, Sunil Agarwal, Anil Tiwari, Shri Kamal Singh, Principal DIET Shri Rajesh Jaiswal, Shri Vijay Agarwal (Additional Convener), N.K. Yadav, Mrs. Sanju Lata Singor, Pratima Bajpai, Ashish Agarwal, Om Prakash Chouksey, Narendra Singh, Mrs. Kalpana Nageshwar, Principal Ranjit Kachwaha, Akhilesh Soni, Prashant Srivastava, and Mrs. Shakuntala Tiwari. The event proceedings were conducted by Mr. Sanjay Singh Gaur, while program in-charge Mr. Rajesh Kshatriya delivered the vote of thanks to the guests. INTACH also distributed school kits to all participating teachers.



*Teacher Training Programme – Mandla Chapter*

## Vidisha

Vidisha INTACH Chapter Inauguration – 26 October 2025

Vidisha: The Vidisha Chapter of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) was inaugurated at SSL Jain Higher Secondary School at 2:00 p.m. The event was attended by INTACH State Convener Deepak Khandekar, Convener Sanjay Malhotra, Additional Collector Anil Damor, Additional Superintendent of Police Prashant Choubey, Senior Archaeologist Ahmed Ali, Charitable Trust Chairman Shrimant Seth Sanjay Jain, Vidisha Heritage Chairman Govind Devliya, and Vidisha Chapter members Atul Shah, Sanjay Pandey, Umesh Sharma, Rakesh Sharma, Veer Singh Raghuvanshi, Anshuj Sharma, Manmohan Bansal, Rajkumar Soni, Santosh Kumar



Namdev, Dr. Shantilal Pitaliya, Ismail Khan, Pradeep Mittal, Virendra Kumar Jain, Govind Saxena, Shivkumar Tiwari, Khajan Singh, BP Singh, Himanshu Kothari, among others. Also present were Gulab Bhavsar, Sudin Srivastava, Santosh Kumar Bitoliya, Bundel Singh Thakur, Abhinay Verma, Rishi Jalori, Sunil Jain, and Uday Dholi.

Arvind Srivastava was appointed as the District Convener, and Rishi Jalori as the Co-Convener of the Chapter. In the memory of Shrimant Seth Rajendra Jain, his family

generously donated Rs. 51,000 to Apna Ghar Ashram and Rs. 31,000 to Pratibha Vikas Sansthan.

State Convener Deepak Khandekar emphasized that the coming generation must uphold the glory of our archaeological heritage and stated that the chapter is expected to work toward preserving all heritage sites in the district. Co-Convener Sanjay Malhotra read out the congratulatory message from INTACH National President Ashok Singh.

The program began with the lighting of a lamp before the portrait of Goddess Saraswati. Atul Shah introduced the guests, and the welcome address was delivered by Govind Saxena. The role of the Vidisha Chapter was highlighted by Additional Superintendent of Police Prashant Choubey. Several city dignitaries were also present at the program.



*Vidisha INTACH Chapter Inauguration – Vidisha Chapter*

## Maharashtra

### Greater Mumbai

INTACH Mumbai Chapter: Recent Highlights

The past few months have been a period of intense activity and achievement for the INTACH Mumbai Chapter, reaffirming our commitment to preserving and celebrating Mumbai's rich heritage.

### Flagship Exhibition – Continuum

Our major event was “CONTINUUM: INTACH’S COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE OF THE PAST”, held from August 5–9 at Kamalnayan Bajaj Hall, Nariman Point. Celebrating 40 years of INTACH’s nationwide work and marking 100 years of Mumbai’s Art Deco movement, the exhibition was inaugurated by Shri Amitabh Singh (CPMG, Maharashtra Circle) and INTACH Chairman Shri Ashok Thakur Singh.

Founder members Mrs. Asha Sheth, Dr. Saryu Doshi, and Dr. Pheroza Godrej graced the event, with Mrs. Sheth and Dr. Doshi being felicitated for their contributions. The exhibition showcased INTACH’s diverse divisions—from architectural and natural heritage to youth and cultural initiatives—along with a special section on Mumbai’s Art Deco legacy. Mumbai Chapter’s first Convener Mr. Sanjay Narayen, Mr. Rajan Jaikar, Mr. Ranganathan and Maharashtra State Convener Mr. Mukund Bhogale graced the occasion with their presence.

A highlight was the collaboration with students from IES College of Architecture, who designed and set up engaging displays—bridging the gap between young designers and heritage professionals. The success of Continuum has inspired other INTACH chapters to adopt similar models.

Complementing the exhibition was a series of talks, panel discussions, and workshops on heritage and conservation, including interactive storytelling sessions for children.

### Cultural Collaboration – Sultana

In June, in partnership with Prime Securities, we hosted a performance of “Sultana”, written and directed by Rama Pandey—a memorable evening in celebration of our ancient ‘Natya Shastra’.



### Exploring the City – Heritage Walks

Our bimonthly heritage walks continued to draw enthusiastic participants, offering immersive insights into Mumbai’s historic fabric. Recent walks explored Juma Masjid, St. Thomas Cathedral, the Alpaiwala Museum, Art Deco Marine Drive, Kumbharwada, Bhuleshwar Market, and Ganeshotsav traditions.

These initiatives reflect INTACH Mumbai’s ongoing mission to inspire awareness, appreciation, and stewardship of our city’s extraordinary heritage.

*Inauguration of the exhibition by CPMG Maharashtra Circle Shri Amitabh Singh and INTACH Chairman Shri Ashok Thakur Singh – Greater Mumbai Chapter*

### Nagpur

## 1. Nagpur Chapter – Student Site Visit to Directorate of Accounts (Postal)

On 7th August 2025, INTACH Nagpur Chapter, in collaboration with SMMCA, organized a site visit for B.Arch. VII semester students to the heritage-listed Directorate of Accounts (Postal) building. Under the mentorship of Dr. Madhura Rathod, students explored the structure's historical, architectural, and material features, discussing its conservation needs and adaptive reuse potential. The visit bridged theoretical learning with practical heritage conservation experience.

Special emphasis was placed on identifying the heritage value, understanding the current state of preservation, and exploring potential conservation challenges. Discussions included context-sensitive conservation approaches and adaptive reuse possibilities, enabling students to connect classroom learning with real-world heritage scenarios.

The exercise proved valuable in strengthening students' analytical, observational, and documentation skills.



*Student Site Visit to Directorate of Accounts (Postal) – Nagpur Chapter*

2. As part of the university-prescribed elective subject *Architectural Conservation* offered to the B.Arch. VII semester students, a site visit to an Old High Court site was conducted under the mentorship of Dr. Madhura Rathod. This field exercise was aimed at sensitizing students to the importance of heritage conservation, architectural documentation, and context-based interventions.

The site, being the city's only centrally protected monument holds a historical and architectural significance, provided a valuable opportunity for the students to engage in on-site learning and develop an understanding of:

- Historical layering and architectural styles
- Material decay and conservation challenges
- Importance of cultural context and intangible values
- Documentation methods and condition assessment techniques
- Adaptive reuse potential and conservation ethics

Students made observational sketches, took notes on structural and material details, and discussed the significance of conservation practices in the Indian context. The visit proved to be insightful, enhancing their theoretical learning with practical exposure.

A post-visit reflection session was also conducted to reinforce key learning outcomes and encourage discussion on responsible conservation practices.



*A site visit to an Old High Court site was conducted under the mentorship of Dr. Madhura Rathod – Nagpur Chapter*

### 3. INTACH INTER-SCHOOL HERITAGE SCHOOL

August 20, 2025

The INTACH Nagpur Chapter recently hosted its annual Inter-City Heritage Quiz at Smt. Manoramabai Mundle College of Architecture, Seminary Hills. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from around 175 students representing 18 schools across the city. The program was held under the guidance of Dr. Madhura Rathod, Governing Council Member, INTACH New Delhi, and Mr. Manoj Jain, Co-Convener, INTACH Nagpur Chapter.

Dignitaries present on the occasion included Dr. Avinash Deshmukh, Vice President, WES and Director, SMMCA; Dr. Neeta Lambe, Principal, SMMCA; along with Dr. Rathod and Mr. Jain. The event was anchored by Ar. Sneha Bodhankar and Ar. Samruddhi Amte.

Quizmaster Mr. Anup Manchalwar engaged the audience with a wide spectrum of questions on art, history, heritage, and traditions of India, making the session both lively and informative.

In the school category, the first prize was bagged by Aaditya Rajurkar and Namman Tripathi of Bhavan's Trimurti Nagar. In the junior college category, Shlok Lonarkar and Prince Hariyani of MKH Sancheti Public School, Wardha Road emerged victorious.



*Winners of Annual Inter-City Heritage Quiz – Nagpur Chapter*

4. The INTACH Nagpur Chapter convened its General Body Meeting on 14th September 2025 with active participation of its members. The agenda of the meeting focused on future proposals and collaborative projects to be undertaken with varied organisations.

Discussions revolved around forging partnerships and planning initiatives with Rotary, UNESCO Association Guwahati, and other cultural and social organisations. Members contributed valuable suggestions on strengthening outreach, enhancing heritage awareness, and initiating projects that align with INTACH's vision of conservation and cultural continuity.

The meeting concluded on an optimistic note, with members unanimously agreeing to pursue these collaborative ventures and to prepare detailed proposals for the upcoming sessions.



*Heritage Club Establishment at School of Scholars, Atrey Layout, Nagpur – Nagpur Chapter*



*Heritage Club establishment at Essence International School, Nagpur – Nagpur Chapter*



*Dr. Madhura Rathod, was honored to have been inducted as a member of the UNESCO Association, Guwahati. and appointed as INTACH Maharashtra State Co Convener (Vidarbha Region) – Nagpur Chapter*

5. INTACH Nagpur Chapter, in collaboration with Rotary Club of Nagpur MIHAN Town 3030 and Priyadarshini College of Engineering, recently conducted the Future Leaders Summit.

Through this initiative, INTACH aims to inspire young minds by connecting heritage awareness with modern leadership values.

The Chapter's involvement highlights its commitment to nurturing responsible, culturally rooted, and forward-thinking youth leaders.

By joining hands with Rotary and Priyadarshini College, INTACH strengthens a platform where students learn, participate, and lead with purpose.

Together, these institutions are shaping a generation that values knowledge, ethics, and community driven leadership for a better tomorrow.



*The Future Leaders Summit – Nagpur Chapter*

## **Pune**

### **Puneri Saree Revival Project Launched in Pune**

#### **INTACH Pune and Hampi-Anegundi Chapters Lead a Landmark Craft Revival Initiative**

The **Puneri Saree Revival Project**, initiated by the **Heritage Craft and Communication Division (HCCD)** in collaboration with the **INTACH Pune Chapter** and the **INTACH**



**Hampi-Anegundi Chapter**, was formally launched on **27 September 2025** at the **Pune International Centre (PIC)**. The launch was graced by **Chief Guest Smt. Supriya Sule (MP, Lok Sabha)**, in the presence of **Maharashtra State Convener Shri Mukund Bhogale**, **State Co-Convener** and **Pune Chapter Convener Dr. Sharvey Dhongde**, and the **Pune Chapter Executive Committee**.

The event was led by the **Puneri Saree project team – Jui Tawade (Co-Convener, INTACH Pune)**, **Shama Pawar (Convener, INTACH Hampi-Anegundi)**, **Arti Kirloskar (Patron, INTACH Pune)** and **Indrajeet Sawant**

(Ground Facilitator) – under the guidance of **Mrs. Vandana Manchanda**, Division Head, HCCD.

The project's chief weaver **Shri Ramesh Ayodi** was felicitated during the programme. Students from Kaveri Institutes – **Kanaee Nimishe**, **Kalpataru Thakare**, and **Atharva Belsare** – presented a special *Natya Sangeet* performance, adding a cultural flourish to the launch.

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## INTACH Exhibition “Continuum: Commitment to the Future of the Past” 27-29 September 2025 | Pune International Centre



Alongside the launch, the Pune Chapter organized *Continuum*, an exhibition celebrating INTACH's 40-year journey and highlighting the Chapter's major projects. The three-day event hosted a series of activities:

**Day 1 - Meet and Greet with Weaver Ramesh Ayodi**

**Day 2 - Ganjifa Workshop for school children**

- **Film Screening: *Modern In Print***

- **Talk: Textile designer Mala Sinha**

**Day 3 - Traditions of Devotion – Conversations on Narratives and Lived Experiences by Suchetna Banerjee, Ananya Dutta, Gayatri Mendanha, Savni Apte, and Auparna Chandra**

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## Workshop: Ganjifa Card Painting for School Children

**28 September 2025 | Pune International Centre**



As part of the HECS Endangered Crafts initiative, INTACH Pune conducted a **Ganjifa Cards Painting Workshop** facilitated by artist **Sachin Kulkarni** of the Sawantwadi Palace artisan family.

Co-Convener **Ar. Jui J. Tawade** introduced students to the craft's history and artisan traditions. A total of **55 students** from various Pune schools participated. Six student members from **Dr. B.N. College of Architecture** assisted participants throughout the session.



The workshop concluded with a **Ganjifa Card-Making Competition** themed “*Women in Cricket – Wishing the Team Luck for the World Cup*”, organized in collaboration with the **Blades of Glory Cricket Museum**, Pune. Two winners were selected by the artisan, and all entries are currently displayed at the Museum.

## Events and Outreach Activities

### Bhondla Celebration - 16 October 2025

INTACH Pune organized a traditional **Bhondla** celebration at Sevasadan English Medium School.

Life Member **Dr. Asmita Joshi** conducted a hands-on demonstration of *Thipkyanchi Rangoli* (*ठिपक्यांची रांगोळी*). The event concluded with traditional Maharashtra snacks.

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### Historic Cities Series 2025 - Satara Edition

#### 11 October 2025 | Rediscovering Satara

INTACH Pune partnered with **Yashoda College of Architecture, Satara**, along with NIUA, DRONAH Foundation, ICOMOS India, and other institutions, for the **Historic Cities Series 2025**.

Under the royal patronage of **Her Highness Princess Chhatrapati Vrushaliraje Bhonsle** and the State Archaeology Department, a series of **heritage walks and awareness activities** were conducted at the historic Satara Old Palace and its surroundings.

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### Heritage Walks and Talks - Pune Monthly Series

The Pune Chapter continued its monthly heritage walks covering diverse aspects of the city's heritage:

- **Prarthana Samaj Walk** - July 2025  
*By Ar. Ruchita Belapurkar*
- **Ganesh Festival Themed Walks** - August & September  
*By EC Members Sourabh Marathe & Madhur Barve*
- **Vitthal Rukmini Mandir Walk** - September  
*By Ar. Shreya Kalbor*
- **Core City Heritage Walk** - October  
*By EC Member Ar. Mahesh Bangad*

**Customized heritage walks** were conducted for institutions including BMS College of Architecture, Happy Miles Outdoor Learning, Vishwakarma University, Mahindra United World College, Vidya Valley School, and others. Walk leaders included Co-Conveners **Supriya Mahabaleshwarkar** and **Jui Tawade**, EC Members **Madhur Barve** and **Sourabh Marathe**, and Life Member **Ar. Nishtha Haval**.

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### Expert Talks and Invitations

- Convener **Dr. Sharvey Dhongde** served as a heritage expert on the panel "*Mobility in the Future: A Pune Core City Dialogue*" organized by **Parisar** and CEE on World Car-Free Day.
  - Co-Convener **Supriya Mahabaleshwarkar** delivered a talk on "**Plants of Pune**" at a monthly gathering hosted at Fat Labrador Café.
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### Webinar on Wetland Conservation

#### 8-10 September 2025 | World Water Week

INTACH Pune, along with **Maharashtra Vruksh Samvardhini, Vanarai, and SPPU Environment Science Department**, organized a three-day webinar on **Wetland Conservation**.

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Speakers included:

- **Dr. Deepak Apte** – Wetlands & Biodiversity
- **Shri Hemant Karkhanis** – Mangrove Wetlands
- **Dr. Erach Bharucha** – Wetland Restoration

Curated by **Supriya Mahabaleshwarkar** and **Mukul Mahabaleshwarkar**, the webinar drew **100+ participants**, including researchers, conservationists, and students.

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### Annual Members' Meeting

The Annual Members' Meeting of INTACH Pune was held on **25 July 2025**, attended by **30 members** who reviewed the Chapter's achievements and ongoing programmes.

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### Publications: Pune Patrika (Ashadh 2025)

The Pune Chapter released the **Ashadh 2025 edition** of its quarterly e-newsletter "**Pune Patrika**", featuring chapter activities, heritage articles, and photo essays.

### Solapur Obituary

1. We deeply regret to inform you of the untimely demise of our esteemed member, **Ms. Sudharani Sandesh Trivedi** (Membership No. **L/17086**). Her passing is a great loss to the INTACH family. We extend our heartfelt condolences to her bereaved family and pray for strength and peace during this difficult time.

May her soul rest in eternal peace.

### 2. INTACH India Heritage Quiz 2025 – Solapur City Round

INTACH Solapur Chapter conducted the Solapur City Round of the INTACH India Heritage Quiz on **22 July 2025** at **S. P. M. English School, Solapur**. A total of **17 schools**, **33 teams**, and **64 students** participated enthusiastically.



Registrations began at 8:45 am and were overseen by **Ar. Pushpanjali Katikar**. **Co-Convener Ar. Shveta Kothavale** served as the Quiz Master. The event began punctually at 9:30 am with an introduction to the rules and marking scheme. INTACH members invigilated the round to ensure smooth proceedings.

After the written round, the answer sheets were evaluated by members **Govardhan and Masai Chatla**, **Geetanjali Diddi**, **Adv. Monika Timke**, **Anuja Dustkar** and **Rohini Jokare**.

During evaluation, **Mrs. Madhuri Gaikwad**, Social Sciences teacher at KLE English Medium School, delivered an engaging session on "*How to Turn Reading from a Hobby to a Habit.*" A blogger and author of *Diary of Book Lovers*, she shared reading methods, inspiring examples of Swami Vivekananda and Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, and emphasized that reading can serve as a form of meditation.

A brief interactive session followed with **Mrs. Joshi**, mother of Hruturaj Joshi, National Winner of the *Celebrating India* Poster Competition. She spoke about their memorable visit

to New Delhi to receive the trophy. Trophies and certificates for regional and chapter winners were presented by the guests along with Convener **Dr. Narendra Katikar** and Co-Convener **Ar. Shveta Kothavale**.



Four teams qualified for the second round—two each from **Late V. M. Mehta High School** and **Digambar Jain Gurukul**.

The final round concluded with the team from **V. M. Mehta High School**—**Ms. Anushka Amol Gaikwad** and **Master Sujay Mohan Hajare**—emerging as winners. All participants received certificates, and

refreshments were provided.

The programme was efficiently organized by **Shveta Kothavale** and **Pushpanjali Katikar**, with support from **Monika Timke**, **Geetanjali Diddi**, **Rohini Jokare**, and **Anuja Dustkar**.



### Annual Meeting – 3 August 2025

The Annual Meeting of INTACH Solapur Chapter was held on **3 August 2025** at *Naivedyam, Hotel Lotus, Solapur*, with **15 members** in attendance. Members present included **Dr. Kiran** and **Dr. Shrikant Patankar**, **Dr. Sanjay Manthale**, **Rajiv Dipali**, **Govardhan Chatla**, **Shashikant Patil**, **Shrirang Regoti**, **Shirish Kothavale**, **Nitin Anvekar**, **Dr. Chaphalkar**, **Dr. Katikar**, and **Ar. Shveta Kothavale**. New members **Prof. Sangita Bavage**, **Prof. Bhimgonda Patil**, and **Dr. Dhanesh Ligade** were welcomed.

### National Handloom Day - Heritage Walk

On the occasion of **National Handloom Day 2025**, INTACH Solapur Chapter organized a heritage walk to various handloom units in the eastern part of Solapur city.



Solapur's legacy in handloom products—sarees, towels, wall hangings, and *Sataranji*—was highlighted during this two-and-a-half-hour tour. Participants visited units run by **Mr. Nagnath Madgundi**, **Mr. Srinivas** and **Mr. Sudarshan Anantulu**, and **Mr. Rajesham Sadul**.

Weavers explained processes such as loom operation, material evolution, dye changes, and the skill involved in creating portrait wall hangings. Participants also tried weaving *Pancha* (towels).

The walk was coordinated by **Mr. Govardhan Chatla**, with support from **Ar. Shveta Kothavale** and **Prof. Narendra Katikar**.



*Weaving demonstration*

### Presentation at Bank of India RSETI, Soregaon



The Bank of India RSETI at Soregaon invited Ar. Shveta Kothavale and Ar. Pushpanjali Katikar to interact with 25 rural trainees about documenting and preserving local heritage.

They explained various forms of heritage and encouraged trainees to adopt traditional art, craft, cuisine, and rituals in their lives.

### Independence Day Heritage Walk - Solapur Head Post Office

On the eve of Independence Day 2025, a heritage walk to the Solapur Head Post Office



was organized. More than 40 postal employees, an equal number of citizens, and INTACH members participated.

A flag-hoisting ceremony was followed by a march to the Gandhi statue. Ar. Shveta Kothavale introduced the historical significance of the Post Office, after which Dr. Seemantini Chaphalkar led a guided tour of the building's architectural features.

The Senior Post Master and Superintendent were felicitated with brochures and thank-you notes.

## Fort Walk – 24 August 2025

A heritage walk to Solapur Fort was conducted by **Shri Nitin Anvekar**, attracting more than **70 participants**.



Key sites visited included:

*Hatti Darwaza, Shahar Darwaza, Padmavati Buruz, Nishaan Buruz, Rana Mandala, Kaid Khana, Hattikana, Kapilasiddha Mallikarjun Mandir, and Battis Khambi Masjid.* The walk concluded with a vote of thanks by **Mr. Ashish More**.

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## Lokmat Samwad – Heritage Dialogue

*Lokmat Daily* invited INTACH Solapur Chapter for a discussion on Solapur’s heritage. The session was moderated by **Mr. Jalkotkar**, with active support from Editor **Milind Kulkarni**.

Participants included **Dr. Seemantini Chaphalkar, Dr. Narendra Katikar, Ar. Shveta Kothavale, and Nitin Anvekar**.

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## Lecture on Heritage of India – Walchand Institute of Technology



The **Department of Civil Engineering, WIT Solapur**, invited **Ar. Shveta Kothavale** to deliver a lecture on the Heritage of India for second-year undergraduate students. The session emphasized documentation, listing, and restoration, with a focus on built heritage.

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## Fort Walk for WIT Civil Engineering Students



Second-year students of Civil Engineering, WIT, participated in a fort walk conducted by **Ar. Shveta Kothavale** and **Nitin Anvekar** to gain hands-on understanding of monuments, their context, and conservation needs.

Convener **Dr. Katikar** and **Prof. Jhaveri** coordinated the programme.

## Odisha

**Tour of INTACH Odisha State Chapter to Jajpur, Baripada, Balasore & Bhadrak**  
(By **Dr. Biswajit Mohanty**, Convener – Odisha State Chapter & **Shri Anil Dhir**, Co Convener – Odisha State Chapter)

**24–26 July 2025**

**24 July 2025 – Visit to Jajpur**

The State Convener and Co-Convener began their tour from Bhubaneswar and reached Jajpur at 8:30 AM. A meeting was held with Chapter Convener **Prof. Anil Kumar Mohanty** and members. The team discussed listing issues and advised a fresh, detailed survey of all heritage structures, statues, epigraphy, and monuments in the district.

The Chapter was also briefed on the **2024 INTACH Guidelines**, highlighting:

- Three-year tenure limit for Conveners

- Need for rotating leadership through consensus
- Role of Chapters as heritage watchdogs, especially in cases of threats, encroachments, and idol thefts
- Importance of inducting new members and forming **Heritage Clubs** in local government, private, medical, and engineering colleges

A **monthly heritage walk** was proposed and accepted. The team emphasized that as INTACH is *CSR-compliant*, Chapters can approach local industries for funding support.

### Visit to Nilagiri, Balasore District

The team met **Shri Jagadish Ch. Harichandan Mardaraj**, a member of the Nilagiri royal family, whose palace Clock Tower had earlier been restored by the INTACH Conservation Institute. Shri Mardaraj agreed to facilitate a detailed listing of heritage sites in the region, including the important Buddhist-Jain site at **Ajodhya**, where rampant idol thefts have been reported.

### Meeting with Kaptipada Region Representatives



Local members of the erstwhile Kaptipada State shared information on heritage locations, temples, and shrines. The State team committed to conducting a detailed listing with support from the Mayurbhanj Chapter.

### Meeting with the Royal Family of Mayurbhanj

At **Belgadia Palace, Baripada**, the team met the Maharajah and Maharani, who expressed deep concern regarding:

1. **Proposed demolition** of the 1804 Mayurbhanj Palace (now a college)
2. **Critical condition of Jubilee Library**, holding a priceless historical collection
3. Preservation and propagation of **Mayurbhanj Chhau**, a unique martial dance tradition
4. Promotion of **local crafts** such as tussar handloom and sabai grass products

Shri Anil Dhir announced a major project to undertake **complete district-level heritage listing**, with plans to present the documentation to **Her Excellency the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu**, who hails from Mayurbhanj.

### Halt at Baripada

### 25 July 2025 - Press Conference at Belgadia Palace



A joint press meet was held to formally announce the commencement of heritage listing in Mayurbhanj district.

Despite prior requests, **no members of the Mayurbhanj Chapter attended the meeting**, due to the non-cooperation of the Convener, **Maj. Parida**. He neither convened a meeting nor shared contact numbers of members, resulting in the State team being unable to interact with the Chapter – **the only chapter absent during the four-district tour**.

### Halt at Rasgobindpur

## 26 July 2025 – Memorial at Amarda Airfield

The team attended the annual **WWII Memorial Service** at Amarda Road, held since 2011



to honour **14 Allied airmen** who perished in a 1945 training crash. Among them, only one was Indian; the others were from the UK, USA, Netherlands, Canada, and Australia.

Dignitaries, students, teachers, and the Mayurbhanj royal family joined the solemn ceremony. Floral tributes were offered, and prayers were recited.

Shri Anil Dhir proposed establishing an **annual Rasgovindpur Cultural Festival**, featuring local performing arts and Chhau dance, which

received strong support from local leaders.

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## Meeting with INTACH Balasore Chapter



The team met members of the active Balasore Chapter. Discussions revolved around:

- Implementation of 2024 Guidelines
- Leadership rotation
- Heritage vigilance and reporting idol thefts
- Formation of Heritage Clubs
- Initiation of a **monthly heritage walk**

The team visited the **Lal Girija (Red Church)**, built

in 1866, now under illegal occupation by the local Press Club.

The chapter had earlier lodged complaints as unauthorised



constructions violated heritage norms. The structure requires urgent conservation, including replacement of damaged stained-glass windows and removal of vegetation affecting the walls.

Members were advised to pursue **CSR funding**, with assurance of State Chapter support.

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## Meeting with INTACH Bhadrak Chapter

The State team met Bhadrak Chapter members (in the absence of the Convener). Highlights included:



- Review of the 2024 Guidelines
- Need for leadership rotation
- Concerns raised by historian **Dr. Bhagabat Tripathy**, who reported theft of three listed idols
- Urgent need to update and digitize the heritage list with **GPS coordinates**
- Proposal to form Heritage Clubs in educational institutions
- Suggestion for a **monthly heritage walk**, which the Chapter agreed to initiate

## Conclusion

Over three days, the State Convener and Co-Convener successfully met three of the four district Chapters – **Jajpur, Balasore, and Bhadrak** – and guided them on heritage listing, leadership guidelines, membership expansion, CSR utilisation, and heritage vigilance. However, due to non-cooperation of the Convener, **Mayurbhanj Chapter members did not attend the scheduled meeting**, making it the only district where the State team could not interact with local members.

## Balasore

### 1. Summer Camp for School Students:

A Summer Camp for school students was organized with collaboration of Balasore Art & Crafts College and Balasore Artistic Crafts School at the premises of the Art College. The Summer Camp was attended by 72 students of different schools for eight days from 27.04.2025 to 4.05.2025. The participants were trained in various art works like Clay Modelling, Glass Painting, Origami, Block Painting, Sketch Art, Painting etc. The craft persons from the Art College conducted the classes. All participants were handed over with participation certificates.

### 2. INTACH All India Heritage Quiz:



All India Heritage Quiz was conducted at Sidhi Vinayak Public School, Balasore on 17.08.2025. Ninety participants from nine schools participated in the written round. Six teams qualified for the oral rounds which was conducted by Quizmaster Shri V.Uday Kumar. The winning team from

DAV Public School represented the Chapter in the Regional Rounds at Bhubaneswar.

### 3. Chapter Foundation Day Celebrated:

INTACH, Balasore Chapter celebrated its 16th Foundation Day on the 5th September 2025 at Udyog Bhawan, Balasore. The meeting was presided over by Shri Uday Ranjan Das, Convener. Shri Biswajit Mohanty, State Convener, Odisha State and Shri



Gyana Ranjan Dash, IAS (Retd) Administrator and a Historian were the Guests of Honour. Shri Sangram Kumar Das, Co-Convener presented the Chapter Activities Report. Shri Binod Bihari Panda, Head Master, Ratnkar Town High School, Nilagiri was presented with "Sikshak Gourav Samman". Prizes were distributed to winners of various competitions organized by the Chapter. Chapter bulletin "Parampara" was released by the Guests.

#### 4. Workshop on Endangered Arts and Crafts:

Two days' workshop on Endangered Arts and Crafts was organized by the Chapter at Balasore Art & Crafts College on 18th & 19th October 2025. The Subject matter of the workshop was "Terracotta" crafts. Thirty-three participants from seven schools participated in the workshop. The workshop was inaugurated by Shri Gobinda Chandra Das, Deputy Chief Whip of Government of Odisha. Two Crafts Lecturers and six MVA students of the Art College trained the participants in the crafts work. All the participants were presented with participation certificates and a report on the three best entries have been sent to the HECS Division for award of certificates and prizes.

### **Bhadrak**

#### The Investiture Function

The Investiture Function of the INTACH, Bhadrak Chapter was organized at 'Nityananda Bhawan, the Conference Hall of Bhadrak District Retired Govt Employees' Association, Kuansh, Bhadrak on 12th August 2025 under the Chairmanship of Convener, Digambar Mohanty, Co-ordinated by the Co-Convener S.M. Farooque. All members were present in the function. During the function fifteen New Ordinary members and Eleven ordinary members converted to Life members were welcomed. The identity Cards and Logos issued by Delhi Headquarters have been delivered to them in the function by the Chairman followed by Oath Ceremony where all new Ordinary members and ordinary members converted to life members read out the member's pledge of INTACH. The advices of newly appointed State Convener were thoroughly discussed and further discussion was deferred to the next meeting. The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair.

### **Koraput**

The INTACH Koraput Chapter, in collaboration with the State Chapter, District Administration, and COATS, successfully completed the **Kerang Project**, marking an important initiative in the preservation and promotion of the traditional **Kerang fabric of the Gadaba tribe**.

#### **Completion of the Kerang Project**

Under this project, weavers **Smt. Sebati Sisa** and **Smt. Mani Kirsani** produced **six pairs of Kerang cloth**, each measuring 2' × 4'. Their exemplary work was honoured at a meeting organised by the State Chapter in Bhubaneswar on **18 April 2025**.

On the same occasion, a book titled "**Kerang Fabric of Gadaba of Koraput District, Odisha**", compiled by Project Leader **Sri Sanjeeb Chandra Hota**, was formally inaugurated in the presence of State Chapter members and invited guests.

#### **Participation in the 6th Martand Singh Memorial Award (2024)**

As decided by the Executive Committee, the INTACH Koraput Chapter submitted its entry for the **6th Martand Singh Memorial Award, 2024** before the deadline of **4 March**

**2025.** The Chapter reviewed the Kerang cloth samples crafted by the weavers and forwarded the nomination of **Smt. Sebatl Sisa**, a Gadaba artisan from Raipada village, Lamataput Block.

We are pleased to note that **Smt. Sisa was awarded a cash prize of ₹20,000**, which was deposited into her savings account by INTACH's Heritage Craft and Community Division in **June 2025**.

### **Support for Skill Development and Infrastructure**

Significant support for the Kerang weaving tradition has also come from government initiatives. **Dr. Arobinda Padhy**, the then Principal Secretary of Textile Development, sanctioned **₹23.85 lakh** for a **weaver training programme** for young Gadaba women, along with **₹15.5 lakh** for the construction of a dedicated building, expected to be completed by **October 2025**.

This meeting and coordination were facilitated by **Sri Anil Dhir**, Convener of the INTACH Bhubaneswar Chapter.



*“Kerang Fabric of Gadaba of Koraput District, Odisha” – Koraput Chapter*

### **INTACH Koraput Chapter Advocates Preservation of Historic Jail Cell of Freedom Fighter Laxman Nayak**

The INTACH Koraput Chapter has appealed to the authorities of the century-old Koraput Circle Jail to **preserve and refurbish the historic cell** where renowned freedom fighter **Laxman Nayak** was once imprisoned. Nayak was held in this cell before being transferred to Berhampur Jail, where he was executed on **29 March 1943**.

Chapter Convener **Shri Ajit Patra** emphasized that the cell is of immense historical value, as it stands as a testimony to the sacrifices made during India's freedom struggle. Unfortunately, the structure is currently in a neglected condition.

INTACH has proposed to undertake the restoration in coordination with jail authorities, ensuring that the **original fabric and architectural features** of the cell remain intact. The preservation plan includes:

- Setting up a **small heritage corner** within the jail premises
- Establishing a **library** with books related to Laxman Nayak
- Installing a **statue and a photo gallery** inside the cell

Shri Patra noted that such preservation efforts would honour the legacy of local freedom fighters and instil pride among the community.

Jail Superintendent **Shri Kuanr Marandi** confirmed that while the cell currently remains unused—with a photograph of Nayak displayed inside and a light kept on

continuously – the proposal for renovation will be forwarded to higher authorities for necessary action.

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(1 August 2025 - 31 October 2025)\*\*

### 1. World Indigenous Day Celebration – 9 August 2025

INTACH Koraput Chapter, in collaboration with the **Foundation for Ecological Security (FES)** and **COATS**, organised a seminar on **World Indigenous Day** at the COATS Seminar Hall, Koraput.

The programme aimed to raise awareness about the needs of tribal communities and to honour families of local tribal leaders who contributed to India's freedom movement.

#### Key Highlights

- **Chief Guest:** Prof. Maguni Charan Behera (Honorary Professor, COATS) He spoke on the significance of World Indigenous Day and the progress made by the country's indigenous communities.
- **Guests of Honour:**
  - Prof. Jagabandhu Samal (COATS)
  - Shri Jisudan Disari
  - Shri Pradeep Kumar Mishra (FES)

Their addresses focused on the cultural heritage of tribal communities as a source of social capital and the need to safeguard traditional knowledge, land, water, and forest rights.

**Dr. Rajendra Padhi**, Director of the Tribal Research Centre, Kundra, emphasized protecting traditional wisdom, while **Shri Santosh Kumar Panda** highlighted the potential role of **Artificial Intelligence** in improving tribal livelihoods.

#### Honouring Freedom Fighters

INTACH Convener and COATS Director **Prof. (Dr.) P. C. Mohapatro** honoured **Shri Banu Bihari Hontal**, son of freedom fighter **Saheed Durlabh Hontal**. The event saw participation from COATS faculty members, students, retired professors, and INTACH members.

**Vote of thanks:** Shri Gopinath Pradhan.

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### 2. Observation of Guru Diwas – 5 September 2025, Jeypore Government High School

The INTACH Koraput Chapter organised **Guru Diwas** at the Government High School, Jeypore, to honour veteran teachers and scholars who have significantly contributed to tribal studies and education in the region.

The event was coordinated by INTACH Life Member **Dr. Paresh Kumar Rath**, who meticulously arranged the programme.

#### Dignitaries

- **Chief Guest:** Shri Tara Prasad Bahinipati, Hon'ble MLA, Jeypore
- **President:** Prof. (Dr.) P. C. Mohapatro, Convener, INTACH Koraput

#### Honouring Teachers and Researchers

The following eminent scholars and researchers were felicitated:

- Prof. Maguni Charan Behera (COATS)
- Dr. Subash Chandra Mishra (Director, Tribal Research Institute, Umakote)

Retired teachers of Jeypore Boys High School were also honoured for their long-standing service:

- Shri Ganesh Chandra Patra
- Shri Upendranath Patra
- Shri Surendra Patnaik
- Shri Prakash Chandra Patnaik

### Book Release

Two books authored by **Dr. Paresh Kumar Rath** on freedom fighter **Late Gadadhar Mohapatra, INA** (in both English and Odia) were released by the Hon'ble MLA and INTACH Convener.

In his address, the MLA appreciated INTACH's efforts in preserving the cultural heritage of Koraput, particularly the revival of Kerang fibre weaving.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by **Dr. Paresh Kumar Rath**, acknowledging the teachers, scholars, and guests for their valuable presence.



*Seminar on World Indigenous Day*



*Observation of Guru Diwas*

## Punjab

### 1. Seminar on Intangible Culture – Gurmat Sangeet (24 May)

INTACH Punjab organised a special seminar on *Intangible Cultural Heritage* focusing on **Gurmat Sangeet**, led by Bhai Baldeep Singh – a 13th-generation exponent, researcher, and custodian of Sikh sacred music.



A master of traditional instruments such as the **rabab, taus, dilruba, saranda, and pakhawaj**, he is widely acclaimed for reviving authentic Gurbani singing in original *raagas* and restoring rare luthieri traditions.

Over decades of field research across Punjab, Pakistan, and remote parts of India, he has documented oral histories, manuscripts, notations, and endangered musical forms.

In his presentation, he shared rare insights into:

- the **historic evolution** of Gurbani Sangeet,
- **oral and pedagogical lineages**,
- the significance of traditional raag-based recitation, and
- the heritage value of extinct or endangered instruments.

The session beautifully highlighted the need to preserve Gurmat Sangeet as a living spiritual heritage.

## 2. Ferozepur Fort Opens to Public After Over 200 Years (June)

Following sustained efforts by INTACH Punjab, the Army authorities have agreed to open the **Ferozepur Fort** to the public on Sundays and public holidays.



Built in **1839**, the fort features a **three-layered defensive perimeter**, strategically designed gates, escape routes, and underground communication tunnels. It holds a significant place in the events of **1857**, when nearly 300 sepoys briefly captured the fort before it was retaken by British troops.

Notably, the arsenal used for the **recapture of Delhi's Red Fort in September 1857** was dispatched from here. The opening marks a major step in making Punjab's military heritage accessible to citizens and scholars.

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## 3. Sultanpur Lodhi: A Timeless Beacon of Oneness

Among India's oldest towns, **Sultanpur Lodhi** is being re-envisioned as a global centre of interfaith harmony, inspired by Guru Nanak Dev Ji's teachings of **unity, equality, and compassion**.



Maj Gen (Retd) **Balwinder Singh**, Punjab Convener, INTACH, has proposed recognition of the town as a "**Sarv Dharam Sathal**" – a place belonging to all faiths.

Key heritage elements include:

- historic gurdwaras (Ber Sahib, Hatt Sahib, Sant Ghat, Guru Ka Bagh),
- the Lodhi-era fort,
- the old broken bridge from Guru

Nanak's time,

- the mosque where Guru Nanak participated in namaz, and
- old havelis reflecting the town's layered past.

INTACH has proposed:

- curated **heritage walks**,
- guide training programmes,
- documentation of neglected structures, and
- developing the cultural landscape from Kali Bein's origin to its confluence with the Beas.

The revival of the **Kali Bein**, led by Sant Balbir Singh Seechewal, adds ecological and spiritual significance to the town.

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## 4. INTACH Punjab & GGPS Nainowal Vaid to Adopt Dolbaha War Memorial

INTACH Punjab and **Guru Gobind Public School, Nainowal Vaid**, will jointly adopt and conserve the **Dolbaha War Memorial** in Hoshiarpur district.

Dolbaha, known for prehistoric findings, made a remarkable contribution to **World War I**, sending **73 soldiers** – an extraordinary number for a small agrarian village.



Maj Gen (Retd) Balwinder Singh and the visiting team studied the village's martial legacy with military historian Harpreet Singh Bhatti. Despite its significant contribution, only two names from Dolbaha appear in official CWGC records – reflecting gaps in colonial documentation.

INTACH has recommended:

- creation of a **small museum** at the memorial site,
- documenting stories, photos, and biographies of the soldiers,
- forming a **Military Heritage Wing** within INTACH Punjab to preserve such narratives, and
- collaborating with UKPHA and the University of Greenwich for record correction.

The project aims to reconnect youth with Punjab's martial heritage and instill pride in the region's military legacy.

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### 5. Saragarhi Dhai Dhun - Conservation of Heritage Well of Naik Lal Singh

INTACH Tarn Taran Chapter, under Dr Baljit Kaur and guided by Maj Gen Balwinder Singh, has supported conservation of the



**historic well belonging to Naik Lal Singh**, the brave 2IC of the **36th Sikh Regiment** who fell during the iconic **Battle of Saragarhi (1897)**.

The Dhai Wala village panchayat and volunteers manually excavated the well; water was discovered at 15 feet, confirming its authenticity. Earthen buckets found inside further indicate its vintage.

The well stands near the **war memorial of Naik Lal Singh**, where over 2,000 people gather

annually in September to honour the Saragarhi martyrs.

INTACH continues its efforts to preserve Saragarhi-related sites and stories as part of Punjab's military heritage.

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### 6. Asal Uttar - Punjab's First Military Heritage War Memorial & Museum

On **30 September**, the upgraded **Asal Uttar War Memorial and Museum** was dedicated to the nation by Sh. Gulab Chand Kataria, Governor of Punjab, in the presence of Lt Gen Manoj Kumar Katiyar, GOC-in-C Western Command. This is Punjab's **first official military heritage site**, developed jointly by the Indian Army and INTACH Punjab.

The Battle of Asal Uttar (8-10 September 1965) was a decisive turning point of the Indo-



Pak War, where Indian forces halted Pakistan's Patton-tank-led offensive. The battlefield, famously called "Graveyard of Pattons," saw 97 enemy tanks destroyed or abandoned.

Key highlights included:

- tribute to **CQMH Abdul Hamid, PVC**, who destroyed three Patton tanks before attaining martyrdom;
- remembrance of Battle of **Barki (1965)** and **Sehja (1971)**;
- importance of preserving terrain-based memory for future generations;
- proposals for guide training, oral-history integration, homestays, and artisan kiosks.

Dr Baljit Kaur emphasized balanced storytelling, acknowledging both Indian and Pakistani perspectives to humanize the history. The memorial also marked **107th Armistice Day** with floral tributes.

## 7. Commemorating World War I Martyrs at Sarwali, Gurdaspur

A remembrance ceremony was held at **Village Sarwali** to honour the WWI martyrs:



- **Havildar Kala Singh** (45 Rattray Sikhs) - 107th martyrdom anniversary,
- **Sepoy Hazara Singh** - 108th martyrdom anniversary.

Major General Balwinder Singh, VSM (Retd), Convener INTACH Punjab, was the chief guest.

A ceremonial guard was presented by **4 Sikh (Saragarhi) Battalion**.

Gen Singh urged Punjab's youth to avoid social evils, pursue discipline, and connect with heritage.

Fitness icon **Kunwar Amritbir Singh** motivated students to adopt sports and a drug-free lifestyle.

## 8. INTACH Punjab - State Level Cultural Heritage Quiz 2025



INTACH organised the **State Level Cultural Heritage Quiz** on 7 November at Army Public School, Beas.

Eleven districts participated: Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Ferozepur, Sangrur, Faridkot, Hoshiarpur, Bathinda, Malerkotla, Patiala, Jalandhar, and Kapurthala.

The quiz forms part of the *National Heritage Quiz* supported by HECS, INTACH Central Office, and the Ministry of Culture.

Topics included Built Heritage, Natural Heritage, Living Traditions, Indian personalities, Heritage at Risk, and Punjab-specific heritage.



**Winners:**

- **1st Place:** *Spring Dale Senior School, Amritsar* – Sehajnoor Kaur & Saurish Nagpal (to represent Punjab at nationals in Delhi)
- **2nd Place:** *MGN Public School, Kapurthala* – Charuvrat Bains & Arshiya
- **3rd Place:** *General Gurnam Singh Public School, Sangrur* – Mehtab Sidhu & Arpan Kansal

Maj Gen Balwinder Singh emphasized the need for youth to take ownership of protecting Punjab’s unique cultural, spiritual, artistic, and military heritage.

**Amritsar**

1. REPORT OF Amritsar HERITAGE QUIZ 2025

INTACH Amritsar Organises National Heritage Quiz City Round at Delhi Public School

Amritsar, August 18 – The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) Amritsar Chapter successfully organised the City Round of the National Heritage Quiz today at Delhi Public School, Amritsar. Sharing the details, INTACH Amritsar Convener Mr. Gagandeep Singh Virk informed that 14 leading schools of the city and surrounding areas participated in the quiz ( 130 students). The competition was conducted in two phases – the first being a written round, followed by the oral round for the shortlisted teams. To maintain high standards, INTACH specially appointed Mr. Muhammad Bilal Farooqi, an expert heritage quiz master with rich experience, to conduct the event. Mr. Virk stated that the aim was to expose Amritsar students to the level of national-level competitions being held in metropolitan cities.

The event was graced by Mr. Kamal Chand, Principal of Delhi Public School, as the Chief Guest, and noted historian Mr. Surinder Kochhar as the Keynote Speaker. The final round saw an exciting contest between Spring Dale Senior School and DAV Public School. Spring Dale’s Saurish Nagpal (Grade IX) and Sehajnoor Kaur (Grade VIII) secured the first position, thereby qualifying for the State Round. DAV Public School bagged both the second and third positions, with Akshit Arora and Devan Monga securing the second prize, while Bhagwat Kundra and Pratyaksh Khanna won the third prize.

The participating schools included Spring Dale Senior School, DAV Public School, Delhi Public School Amritsar, Howard Lane Senior School, Army Public School Amritsar, Sant Giani Gurbachan Singh Ji Khalsa Academy, DAV International School, Pathseekers, Nishan-e-Sikhi International School, Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan S.L. Public School, Holy

Heart Presidency School, BAS Riarki Public School, and Khalsa College International Public School.

Addressing the students, historian Mr. Surinder Kochhar highlighted the rich heritage of Amritsar and urged schools to actively engage with heritage sites so that these treasures are preserved for future generations. Principal Mr. Kamal Chand congratulated INTACH Amritsar for its efforts and appreciated the initiative, remarking that such a programme was organised at Delhi Public School for the first time with INTACH's support. The event concluded with the felicitation of the winning teams by Mr. Gagandeep Singh Virk, Mr. Kamal Chand, Mr. Surinder Kochhar, and quiz master Mr. Muhammad Bilal Farooqi. Special honours were also presented to Principal Mr. Kamal Chand and Mr. Surinder Kochhar by the INTACH Convener.



*National Heritage Quiz City Round at Delhi Public School Amritsar – Amritsar Chapter*

## 2. World Tourism Day Celebrated with a Remarkable Heritage Journey in Amritsar by INTACH AMRITSAR

In a splendid tribute to the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage, INTACH Amritsar, in collaboration with the Panj Aab Foundation, INTACH Punjab, and Riarki institutions, marked World Tourism Day with an enriching heritage journey through Amritsar's lesser-known historical sites and architectural treasures.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from heritage enthusiasts and students, fostering a deep appreciation for local history and culture while inspiring a collective commitment to their preservation.

Led by INTACH Amritsar Convener Gagandeep Singh Virk, the initiative dedicated this year's World Tourism Day to highlighting the city's overlooked historical landmarks. Under the expert guidance of renowned historian Surinder Kochhar, participants, including students, explored iconic sites such as Sarai Amanat Khan, the historic baoli (stepwell), Diwan Todarmal's pond, ancient havelis, Kos Minar, and the samadh of Sham Singh Attariwala. The group also had the privilege of visiting the ancestral home of Maharaja Sher Singh's family in Attari, engaging in meaningful interactions.

The heritage walk provided participants with detailed insights into the historical and architectural significance of these sites, offering a deeper understanding of the stories and craftsmanship behind their creation. The event saw the presence of distinguished

individuals, including Principal Harinder Riar, Director Manpreet Kaur, Advocate Parmpal Singh Hundal, Jagjivan Singh, Baljeet Kaur, Gurwinder Singh, Jeans, Ravi Kumar, along with numerous heritage enthusiasts and students from various schools.

Historian Surinder Kochhar emphasized the urgent need for public awareness to safeguard these historical treasures. “When people visit these sites, they begin to understand their value, ensuring they are neither neglected nor lost to time,” he remarked.

Gagandeep Singh Virk expressed heartfelt gratitude to all participants, schools, the Panj Aab Foundation, INTACH Punjab, and Riarki institutions for their dedication in making the journey to these distant heritage sites possible.

He highlighted the importance of experiential learning, stating, “Education extends beyond textbooks. By exploring heritage sites and connecting with their legacy, students gain true knowledge and a sense of responsibility toward their preservation.”

The event succeeded in bringing Amritsar’s rich heritage back into the spotlight while igniting a passion for history among the younger generation, ensuring the city’s cultural legacy endures for years to come.



*Celebrated World Tourism Day – Amritsar Chapter*

3. We are pleased to share an update on the recent heritage rediscovery initiative near Ramdas, Punjab, where two historic wells, believed to date back to the era of Baba Budha Sahib Ji, have been unearthed. Located just half a mile from Ramdas town along the ancient route to Narowal (now in Pakistan), these wells were found amidst a grove of peepal trees, close to Gurdwara Baba Budha Sahib Ji (Samadh).

On 20 October 2025, the excavation and revival work commenced, led by INTACH Punjab, INTACH Amritsar, and the Randhawa family. This significant effort aims to restore these long-forgotten structures, which had nearly vanished over time. The re-excavation was conducted with deep respect for Sikh traditions, beginning with an Ardas ceremony and the distribution of Karah Prashad, marking the sacred nature of this undertaking.

This initiative is more than a restoration project; it is a meaningful step toward reconnecting with Punjab’s rich cultural and spiritual heritage. The rediscovery of these

wells not only preserves historical landmarks but also strengthens our bond with the living history of the region.

We are committed to keeping you informed about the progress of this project and welcome your support or inquiries. Please feel free to reach out for further details or to explore ways to contribute to this noble cause.

Thank you for your continued interest in preserving Punjab's heritage.

#### 4. INTACH Amritsar Organizes Heritage Walk to Celebrate City's Rich Legacy

Amritsar, June 9, 2025: The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), Amritsar Chapter, organized a remarkable **\*\*Heritage Walk\*\*** on Sunday, offering participants a deep dive into the city's rich cultural and historical tapestry. Held free of cost, the event witnessed enthusiastic participation from local residents and approximately 50 school teachers, underscoring the community's commitment to preserving Amritsar's heritage.



The walk commenced at the **\*\*Partition Museum, Town Hall\*\***, where INTACH Amritsar Convener **\*\*Gagandeep Singh Virk\*\*** led the group in pledging to safeguard the city's invaluable heritage. Emphasizing collaboration, he encouraged all participants to work together as partners in this noble cause. The heritage tour was expertly

guided by **\*\*Gurvinder Johal\*\***, who showcased the architectural and cultural gems of Amritsar's historic areas, captivating attendees with stories of the city's past.

A highlight of the event was the leadership of **\*\*Surinder Kochhar\*\***, a distinguished author and historian widely credited with initiating Amritsar's Heritage Walks and conducting extensive research on the city's heritage. His insights enriched the experience, offering participants a profound understanding of Amritsar's historical significance.

Speaking about the initiative, Gagandeep Singh Virk explained that the primary objective of the walk was to familiarize school teachers with Amritsar's cultural heritage, enabling them to impart this knowledge to their students. "As Surinder Ji rightly points out, preserving our rich heritage requires creating awareness among the masses, and students are the most effective medium for this," he said. The walk aimed to inspire educators to integrate Amritsar's history into their teaching, fostering a sense of pride and responsibility among the younger generation.

#### 5. 7 Jul \*INTACH Amritsar Hosts Lecture on "Guru Nanak: An Embodiment of Oneness" by Amardeep Singh\*\*

The Amritsar chapter of INTACH organized an inspiring lecture titled "Guru Nanak: An Embodiment of Oneness" at Virsa Vihar, delivered by globally acclaimed author and

historian Amardeep Singh. The event, attended by a large gathering of literature enthusiasts, scholars, and school students, celebrated Guru Nanak's universal philosophy of Eka (oneness).

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

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



Amardeep Singh, joined by his wife Vaninder Kaur, was recognized for their 16-year journey producing five impactful documentaries at significant personal expense. He challenged the notion that Sikh traditions and identity should be confined to Punjab, highlighting the presence of Nanak Panth and Sikh Panth followers across India, from Sindh to every corner of the country, many of whom may never have

visited Punjab. He stressed the need to unite these communities under Guru Nanak's universal principle of Eka (oneness).

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

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

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

## 6. INTACH Amritsar's Flood Relief Efforts

Punjab is facing one of its worst floods in decades, with nearly 8–14 districts and more than 1,000 villages affected. Crops on about three lakh acres have been destroyed, and Amritsar's Ajnala–Ramdass belt alone has seen nearly forty villages submerged due to breaches on the Ravi River. Thousands of families have been displaced, schools have been closed, and normal life has been badly disrupted.

In this difficult time, INTACH Amritsar has stood firmly with Punjab. Our chapter has mobilized relief with the help of local institutions and volunteers, distributing food, medicines, water, tarpaulins, and animal fodder.

We are also documenting the losses of artisans and simultaneously assessing damage to heritage structures.

Looking ahead, INTACH Amritsar is committed to continue its relief and recovery efforts until the situation returns to normal. Our focus will remain on both community needs – fodder, clean water, and livelihoods – and on the conservation of Punjab's heritage affected by the flood.

### **Bathinda**

Bathinda chapter held quiz competition on 9 oct at Lord Rama School in which 7 school participated with 98 students. Winner were Shivam Gudara and Trshat from Silver Oak School. Prizes were distributed by Jagjit Singh Chouhan from Kolkata.



*Quiz Competition – Bathinda Chapter*

### **Firozpur**

#### INTACH Heritage Quiz

The INTACH Heritage Quiz was held on 22nd August at DC Model International School with great enthusiasm and participation. The event aimed at spreading awareness about India's rich cultural heritage and instilling in young minds the values of preservation and pride in our traditions.

A total of 82 students from various reputed schools took part in the competition, showcasing their knowledge, confidence, and keen interest in heritage-related themes. The quiz was designed to challenge students with thought-provoking questions on history, culture, monuments, traditions, and heritage conservation. The atmosphere was

filled with excitement as participants answered with zeal and the audience cheered them on.

After several engaging and competitive rounds, Dass & Brown World School emerged victorious, securing the First Position. Their commendable performance has earned them the opportunity to represent the region at the State Level Round of the INTACH Heritage Quiz. Other participating schools also displayed remarkable talent and enthusiasm, making the event a true celebration of learning.

The program concluded with words of appreciation for the participants and encouragement to continue exploring India's glorious past. The event was indeed a successful platform for nurturing awareness and pride in our heritage.



*INTACH Ferozpur Chapter hosted visiting foreign delegate at Saragahi memorial*

## Hoshiarpur

### 1. INTACH Launches Hoshiarpur Chapter to Address Cultural Heritage of the Region

On 26 July 2025, the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH)



formally launched its **Hoshiarpur Chapter**, a long-awaited step made necessary by the region's exceptional cultural, historical, and natural heritage. Hoshiarpur is home to a remarkable spectrum of heritage assets—the prehistoric sites of Dholbaha, Bajwara Fort, World War Memorial, Sheesh Mahal, the world-renowned Sanskrit Department of Punjab University,

ancient manuscripts, a flourishing wood-inlay craft tradition, rich biodiversity, and numerous tangible and intangible cultural traditions.

Maj Gen **Balwinder Singh**, Convener, INTACH Punjab, announced that the chapter was launched on **Kargil Vijay Diwas**, from the **World War I Memorial at Dholbaha**, nestled in the Shivalik hills. The event opened with the recitation of the sacred shloka:

“नैनं छिन्दन्ति शस्त्राणि नैनं दहति पावकः।

न चैनं क्लेदयन्त्यापो न शोषयति मारुतः॥”

This verse from the *Bhagavad Gita* signifies the eternal, indestructible nature of the *Atman* – the soul that transcends physical limitations.



The WWI Memorial has been jointly adopted by **INTACH** and **Guru Gobind Singh Public School, Nainowal Vaid, Hoshiarpur**. The combined celebration of **Kargil Vijay Diwas** and the launch of the new chapter created an atmosphere charged with patriotic pride. **Ms Oishee, IAS**, represented the district administration and appreciated the spirited participation of the villagers and students. Residents expressed their happiness, noting that

this was the first time Dholbaha had received such widespread recognition.

Prominent attendees included **Mr Tarsem Singh**, Secretary, GGES; **Mr J.S. Sandhu**; **Mr R.S. Dhillon**; **Ms Kamaljit Kaur**; **Ms Rashima Singh**, renowned interior designer; and



several others. Principal **Harjit Singh**, the key coordinator of the event, ensured smooth organisation and enthusiastic community participation.

Though Dholbaha is widely known for its **prehistoric significance**, it also played a significant role in modern history. Remarkably, this small rural settlement sent **73 soldiers** to fight in the First World War – an extraordinary contribution compared to other villages of the region. This reinforced Maj Gen Singh’s conviction that **Punjab’s rich cultural heritage remains vastly unexplored** and insufficiently acknowledged by successive administrations.



Punjab, often referred to as the **"sword arm"** of the British Empire, contributed over **300,000 soldiers** to **WWI**, despite representing just 8% of India’s population at the time – an astonishing **40% of India’s total contribution**.

Dholbaha's importance is further amplified by its **archaeological and cultural legacy**. Evidence suggests human habitation here since the **Pleistocene epoch**, supported by discoveries of fossils, stone tools, and artefacts dating back more than **10,000 years**. Sculptures, deity figures, architectural remains, and intricately carved stone panels point



to its flourishing role between the **7th and 13th centuries**, under the **Gurjara-Pratihara and Paramara** dynasties, known for their patronage of art, architecture, and temple culture.

During the ceremony, Maj Gen Singh formally announced **Harjit Singh** as **Convener** and **Paramvir Singh** as **Co-Convener** of the newly formed Hoshiarpur

Chapter. In his address, he spoke passionately about heritage conservation, courage, sacrifice, and national pride. He called upon the youth to become the **torchbearers of cultural preservation** and responsible citizenship.

In his vote of thanks, Principal **Harjit Singh** expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all dignitaries and guests. He reaffirmed his commitment to nation-building, cultural preservation, and holistic student development, pledging to make the INTACH Hoshiarpur Chapter a **vibrant and impactful platform**.

## 2. Guru Gobind Singh Public School, Nainowal Vaid, proudly hosted the INTACH



**National Heritage Quiz** for the Hoshiarpur region. A total of **76 participants from seven schools** took part in the competition, showcasing remarkable teamwork, enthusiasm, and knowledge of India's rich cultural heritage. In a commendable performance, **Guru Gobind Singh Public School (GGPS)** secured the **First Position** in the quiz.

## Jalandhar

During the Jalandhar session, elite of Jalandhar attended the session, to name a few, S. Prem Singh, Chairman Guru mission hospital, Lt Gen Amrik Bahia, Lt Gen Gurdip Singh, Maj Gen Manjit Singh, Maj Gen JDS Bedi, Brig T S Sandhu, Kulbir Singh, ex IGP, Rashima Singh, interior decorator, Principal Harjit Singh, Principal Guru Gobind Singh public school, and many more.

Amardeep Singh and his wife, Vininder Kaur, collectively produced a 24-episode documentary series 'ALLEGORY, A Tapestry of Guru Nanak's Travels' in five languages, filmed at multi-faith sites in nine countries. The series is freely available at theGuruNanak.com. In November 2022, Hofstra University (USA) awarded Amardeep the 8th Biennial Interfaith Award for this documentary series.



At present, Amardeep and Vininder are leading the 'Oneness in Diversity' project, to create audio-visual educational content based on Guru Nanak and the Indic Saints whose verses are enshrined in the Guru Granth Sahib. During the Bhakti period from the 13th to 17th century, diverse spiritual mentors across the Indian subcontinent raised their voices to strengthen social, cultural, and interfaith harmony. Discarding perils of divisiveness & thoughtless practices, they focused on

principles of Oneness. However, the outreach of their philosophies remained limited to their respective geographies as, in those times; messages were transmitted only through oral traditions. Guru Nanak extensive travels across Asia, visited the Dargah of Baba Farid at Pakpattan and documented Baba Farid's sabads (verses) which were being sung at the shrine since the 13th century. Following the vision of Guru Nanak, his fifth successor, Guru Arjan, compiled the 'Guru Granth Sahib' and included sabads (verses) of diverse spiritual mentors from across the Indian subcontinent. During that time, when there was no printing press or internet to transmit information, this mammoth effort of inclusivity was accomplished to strengthen the essence that integration enriches humanity. The 'Oneness in Diversity' project is a multilingual audio-visual educational resource in English, Hindi & Punjabi. It introduces the life narratives and spiritual messages of the saints, whose messages of universal harmony are enshrined in the 'Guru Granth Sahib'. It encompasses metaphoric translations of 1653 sabads (verses) rendered in prescribed musicology of Guru Nanak, Bhagat Kabir, Bhagat Ramanand, Bhagat Ravidas, Sheikh Farid, Bhagat Namdev, Bhagat Jaydev, Bhagat Trilochan, Bhagat Sadhna, Bhagat Sain, Bhagat Pipa, Bhagat Dhanna, Bhagat Surdas, Bhagat Parmanand, Bhagat Bheekhan, Bhagat Beni & Bhai Mardana.

### Jalandhar Quiz 2025

Jalandhar Chapter conducted district level quiz competition on 6 Nov at Nakodar , Jalandhar . There were 78 students and 39 teams fro 8 schools contested for top position . AI International school. Nakodar children topped .

### Kapurthala



### INTACH Kapurthala Chapter - Quiz Competition (5 November)

The INTACH Kapurthala Chapter conducted a Quiz Competition on 5 November, with the participation of 8 schools and a total of 82 students. The event saw enthusiastic involvement from all participants. **MGN Kapurthala secured the First Position** in the competition.

### Malerkotla

## INTACH National Heritage Quiz 2025 – Malerkotla Chapter

The INTACH Malerkotla Chapter organized both the written and oral rounds of the **National Heritage Quiz 2025** on **27 October 2025**. A total of **80 students** from various schools participated enthusiastically in the written round. Based on the evaluation of 20 questions, the **top five high-scoring teams** qualified for the oral quiz round.

The oral quiz comprised **three rounds**—the *Local City Round*, *State Round*, and *National Round*. **Al-Falah Public Senior Secondary School** secured **First and Second Positions** respectively across these rounds, showcasing excellent preparation and knowledge.

Before the event began, the Principal of the host school, **Madam Rehana Naqvi**, warmly welcomed all participating teams, their parents, and the INTACH chapter team. She expressed her gratitude for their presence at this special occasion. Local journalists also attended and covered the event with keen interest.

After the conclusion of the quiz, **Dr. Salim Mohd, Convener, INTACH Malerkotla Chapter**, congratulated the winners and all participants. He emphasized that the spirit of competition motivates every student to strive for excellence. He further added that more such competitions would be organized in the coming days for the overall development of school-going children.

All participating teams received **participation certificates**, while the winning and runner-up teams were awarded **cash prizes, certificates, and General Knowledge books** by the INTACH Malerkotla Chapter. The event was lively, engaging, and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone present.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by **Mr. Sabir Ali Zubairi**, Co-Convener of the chapter, who appreciated the support and cooperation of all involved.

## Patiala

### Motivational Lectures – 23 August 2025

INTACH Patiala Chapter organized **two motivational lectures** at the Government Multipurpose Senior Secondary School, Patiala, on **23 August 2025** to inculcate positive values among students as part of an ongoing campaign to sensitize the younger generation to their rich cultural heritage.

Renowned painting artist **Sukhpal Singh** inaugurated the programme and emphasized the importance of observing and preserving the good values that form an essential part of India's cultural heritage.

The first keynote speaker, **Principal Ms. Vijay Kapoor**, highlighted the need to protect our value system, noting that values are not limited to families but extend across communities and nations. She encouraged students to uphold traditional virtues such as consuming homemade nutritious food, working hard, respecting elders, helping the needy, and living simply – values inherited from our ancestors that shape a meaningful and harmonious society.

The second keynote speaker, **Adv. Sarbjit Singh Virk**, Convener, INTACH Patiala Chapter, spoke on environmental responsibility. He reminded students that our ancestors taught us to live in harmony with nature, and it is now every citizen's duty to take steps to curb pollution affecting our air, water, and surroundings.

## National Heritage Quiz 2025 - Patiala Chapter

Responding to the call of the Heritage Education and Communication Service (HECS), INTACH Patiala Chapter organized the **National Heritage Quiz 2025** at the auditorium



of Government Multipurpose Senior Secondary School, Patiala. The quiz included questions of national and regional importance.

The event was successfully conducted by Quiz Masters **Parmveer Singh** and **Haspreet Kaur**, with **Amanpreet Kaur** and **Anantbir Singh** managing the scoring. The programme was held in the presence of **Adv. Sarbjit Singh**

**Virk**, Convener, and other chapter members.

A total of **62 students from 7 schools** participated:

- D.A.V. Public School
- Shivalik Public School
- Senior Secondary Model School, Punjabi University
- Multipurpose Senior Secondary School
- Government Model Senior Secondary School, Model Town
- British Co-Ed High School
- Our Lady of Fatima Convent School

Following the written round, selected teams qualified for the oral round. Students displayed great enthusiasm and enjoyed being part of this significant event.

### Final Results:

- **First Position:** British Co-Ed High School (Parnika & Prabh Asis Singh)
- **Second Position:** Our Lady of Fatima Convent School (Arnav & Asmeen)
- **Joint Second Runners-Up:**
  - D.A.V. Public School (Angel & Saksham)
  - Our Lady of Fatima Convent School (Japleen & Chakvushi)

All remaining participating teams received consolation prizes for their commendable efforts.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by **Adv. Jatinder Singh Sarao**, Heritage Activist, followed by refreshments for all participants.

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## Annual Meeting - 23 August 2025

The INTACH Patiala Chapter held its **Annual Meeting** on the afternoon of **23 August 2025** at the Patiala Baradari Club, chaired by senior member **Laljit Singh Sandhu**.

Members reviewed ongoing heritage protection initiatives and discussed progress made over the past year. Convener **Adv. Sarbjit Singh Virk** presented a detailed report on the chapter's activities, which included seminars, workshops, competitions, and special



lectures conducted across various educational and community institutions.

The meeting also deliberated on future projects, including cleanliness drives at heritage sites and expanding the reach of INTACH activities into rural areas of Patiala district to increase community involvement.

Senior member **Mr. Reet Iqbal Singh Majhail** concluded the meeting by thanking all participants and encouraging members to dedicate more time towards achieving the objectives and programmes of INTACH.

## Sangrur

### Heritage Quiz Competition 2025

The INTACH Sangrur Chapter conducted the **Heritage Quiz Competition 2025** on **8 October 2025**, hosted and organized by **General Gurnam Singh Public School**. The quiz was rescheduled several times due to school closures and disruptions caused by the flood situation; however, despite these challenges, the event received an excellent response from all participating schools.

A total of **140 students from 11 schools** took part in the written round of the competition. Based on the results, **four teams** were shortlisted for the oral round:

1. General Gurnam Singh Public School
2. General Gurnam Singh Public School
3. Rosemary School
4. General Gurnam Singh Public School

The oral round was conducted by student Quiz Masters and Scorers under the careful



supervision of teachers, ensuring a fair and engaging competition. After **seven oral rounds**, the **First and Second Positions** were both secured by the teams from **General Gurnam Singh Public School**.

The Principal, Teacher Coordinators, support staff, and students of the host school provided exceptional assistance, contributing significantly to the smooth and successful

conduct of the event.

## Tarn Taran

### 1. Seminar on *Embodiment of Oneness* - 6 July



The INTACH Tarn Taran Chapter organized a seminar on “**Embodiment of Oneness**” by **Mr. Amardeep Singh** on **6 July**. The event witnessed an overwhelming response, with **over 250 attendees**, including several renowned personalities of Tarn Taran. The seminar highlighted the message of unity, harmony, and shared cultural values.

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## 2. Heritage Quiz Competition - 30 October



The Tarn Taran Chapter conducted a **Heritage Quiz Competition** on **30 October** at **Majha Public School**.

A total of **96 students** from **10 schools** participated enthusiastically. The quiz generated great excitement and competitive spirit among the students. **Guru Nanak Academy** secured the **First Position** in the competition.

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## 3. Military Heritage Memorial & Museum Initiative - Diamond Jubilee of the 1965 Indo-Pak War

In a significant joint initiative between the **Indian Army** and **INTACH**, work has begun on establishing the **first Military Heritage Memorial and Museum** in the **Khemkaran Sector of Tarn Taran District, Punjab**, to mark the **Diamond Jubilee of India’s victory in the 1965 Indo-Pak War**.

The memorial aims to honor the bravery and sacrifices of the soldiers who defended the nation during the **Battle of Asal Uttar** and other operations in the region. The project was **inaugurated by the Governor of Punjab** along with the **Western Army Commander**, marking a proud moment for the district and the state.

### Rajasthan Ajmer

Ajmer: The INTACH Ajmer Chapter organized a quiz competition on India’s rich heritage at Turning Point School. A total of 72 students from 11 schools participated. After written and oral rounds, Vishak Tilokani and Naman Raj, both Class 11 students from All Saints School, were declared winners. They will now represent Ajmer at the state-level competition to be held in Jodhpur. Chief Guest Neeraj Tripathi, Circle Superintendent, Department of Archives and Museums, said that the responsibility of preserving our heritage lies with the younger generation. He emphasized that India’s cultural heritage is spread across the country and must be protected. Convener Rajesh Garg welcomed the Chief Guest with a garland and briefed him on INTACH’s heritage-related initiatives. Co-convener Mahendra Singh Chauhan presented him with the INTACH insignia, while Vijay Sharma offered a shawl as a gesture of respect.

The oral round was conducted by INTACH member Anil Lodha. Certificates were distributed to all participating students at the end of the event. The program was

supported by SP Kataria, JP Bhati, Anil Mathur, Subhash Chandna, SK Agarwal, MG Inani, and Yogita Tandon.



*Quiz Competition on India's rich heritage – Ajmer Chapter*

## **Alwar**

### **Forest Festival with the Environmental Heritage Club**

On 12 July 2025, the INTACH Alwar Chapter celebrated the Forest Festival at Shri Bal Krishna Higher Secondary School in the Rajgarh block, with the aim of raising awareness among children about the importance of conserving natural heritage and nurturing environmental responsibility in the younger generation.

As part of the initiative, the Chapter distributed saplings to nearly 300 students, encouraging each student to plant one sapling at home. The Chapter also launched the Environmental Heritage Club in collaboration with school teachers and organized a tree-hunting competition, where students identified and named different tree species.

INTACH Convener Sunita Mittal motivated the students to plant and care for trees, explaining the harmful effects of deforestation, the benefits of trees, and the vital role forests play in maintaining ecological balance. She highlighted that planting trees brings positive energy to homes, reduces stress, and improves air quality.

The Forest Festival program was attended by School Director Satish Saini, Principal Yogesh Sharma, teachers, INTACH coordinator Sunita Mittal, member Rajkumar Saini, and around 350 students.

At the conclusion of the event, all students and teachers pledged to fulfill their responsibilities towards the conservation of nature.



*Forest Festival with the Environmental Heritage Club – Alwar Chapter*

## **2. International Geodiversity Day 2025 Geo-heritage Walk and Discussion**

On 6 October 2025, the INTACH Alwar Chapter organized a Geo-heritage Walk and Discussion at the Biodiversity Park in Alwar to commemorate International Geodiversity Day 2025, celebrated globally under the theme “One Earth, Many Stories.”

Subject expert Sanjeev Kargwal explained the diversity of Earth’s materials, forms, and processes in simple language, using examples such as minerals, rocks, soil, fossils, and water – elements that form the foundation of life on Earth. He highlighted that Alwar, Rajasthan, is geologically rich and known for its mineral resources.

During the discussion, he emphasized that human intervention – such as the overuse of natural resources, encroachment on water bodies, and indiscriminate use of plastic and polythene – is accelerating climate change and natural disasters.

During the Geoheritage Walk, Shri Kargwal also provided information about various medicinal plants found in the park, including Gular, Arjun, Amaltas, and Palash, along with the birds and animals that depend on them.

Sunita Mittal, Convener, INTACH Alwar Chapter spoke about the importance of biodiversity, describing it as the foundation of life on Earth and stressing that balanced biodiversity is essential for the healthy functioning of our planet.

Co-Convener Bijendra Singh Naruka expressed gratitude to all participants and guests at the conclusion of the program.



*Geo-heritage Walk and Discussion- Alwar Chapter*

## **Baran**

The Department of Archaeology and Museums, State Museum Baran, in collaboration with the INTACH Baran Chapter organized a seminar on Hindi Diwas under the direction of the Jaipur Directorate. The event featured discussions and a poetry session. The central theme, the importance of Hindi in the modern era, was discussed by Bhairulal Bhaskar, Pradyumna Verma, Jitendra Kumar Sharma, Sandeep Singh Jadaun, Dr. Manoj Singoria, Hari Agarwal, and Hemraj Bansal. During the poetry session, Bhairulal Bhaskar, Hari Agarwal, Hemraj Bansal, Mewaram Chaudhary, Dr. Manoj Singoria, Saubhagya Vaishnav, Nathulal Meghwal, Sonu Surila, and Surajmal Miyada recited poems.

## **Barmer**

Program: Students from Mokalsar Explore 1,000-Year-Old Pag Bawdi

## “Preserving Heritage is our Responsibility” – Jasol

An arts and crafts workshop was organized at the Vaidyanath Mahadev Temple in Mokalsar under the leadership of Rawal Kishan Singh, Convener, Barmer INTACH Chapter. Speaking on the occasion, he emphasized that preserving heritage is a collective responsibility. He stated that art, culture, traditions, and other forms of heritage surround us, and it is essential to recognize and protect those that are disappearing.

He cautioned that in the pursuit of modern lifestyles, traditions are being neglected. Instead of promoting art and culture, an overemphasis on modernity poses a threat to our heritage. Congratulating the winners of the arts and crafts workshop, he encouraged the younger generation to take an active role in heritage preservation.

Yashovardhan Sharma, former Convener, INTACH Barmer Chapter highlighted INTACH’s objectives, stressing the importance of embracing folk traditions and local culture to promote art tourism and safeguard heritage. He added that our culture has multiple dimensions through which we can actively preserve and promote art, culture, and traditions.

Vikram Singh Mokalsar, INTACH Life Member spoke about the 1,000-year-old Pag Bawdi, renowned for its architectural beauty. Due to neglect, it has become a garbage-filled, waterless site, instead of serving as it once did as a source of water for the community. He urged collective action to preserve the Pag Bawdi, emphasizing that no civilization survives without protecting the environment. He added that modern development, if unchecked, harms the environment, and all must pledge to protect and conserve it.

Craftsmen Bhura Ram Aati and Mala Ram Shobhala Jaitmal Gudamalani demonstrated traditional techniques for making blankets, rugs, and other products from cotton, sheep wool, and Aak (Aakda) fibers. A total of 71 students from Government Senior Secondary Schools in Mokalsar participated, and certificates were distributed to all attendees.

Also present were INTACH Life Member Dr. Ganpat Singh Mokalsar, Jaitmal Singh Rathod, Mokalsar Administrator Ghevar Ram Sain, along with teachers Mang Singh and Ashok Kumar, and a large number of villagers.



## **Bhilwara**

### 1. INTACH's work for heritage conservation is remarkable - Judge Jain

Teachers who contributed to heritage conservation were honored.

Bhilwara. District Judge Rajesh Jain lauded the efforts of the INTACH Bhilwara Chapter in conserving nature and heritage and commended the teachers who have actively contributed to heritage preservation. Teachers were felicitated with certificates of appreciation and mementos. Addressing the gathering as the chief guest at the INTACH meet, Judge Jain emphasized that conserving nature is everyone's responsibility and appealed to all attendees to actively participate in the protection of both natural and cultural heritage.

Convener Babulal Jaju stated that at the meet-and-greet held on Sunday at Hotel Nandini, teachers Virendra Sharma, Alpa Singh, Ritu Dadhich, Manju Chhipa, Ruchi Rastogi, Preeti Jain, Vijay Sharma, Chandana Mehta, Bhagyashree Jain, and Shyamlal Khatik, who had contributed to INTACH's heritage and archaeological conservation competitions in previous years, were honored.

School competition in-charge Guman Singh Pipada briefed the audience about the organization's objectives and ongoing initiatives. Program coordinator CA Dilip Goyal noted that the chief guests, District Judge Rajesh Jain and Advocate Mukesh Jain, were felicitated with mementos at the beginning of the program.

INTACH members O.P. Hingad, Ratanlal Dargad, Abbas Ali Bohra, Mukesh Ajmera, Dinesh Arora, Sandeep Porwal, Ashish Porwal, Anurag Lohiya, Omprakash Soni, Ramgopal Agarwal, Suresh Surana, Harak Lal Bishnoi, Rajiv Dadhich, and Bileshwar Dad also shared valuable suggestions for the conservation of heritage.

### 2. INTACH Celebrates Ozone Layer Protection Day

Bhilwara. INTACH Bhilwara Chapter celebrated World Ozone Layer Protection Day today at Maheshwari Public School. Addressing hundreds of students, the keynote speaker, INTACH Convener and environmentalist Babulal Jaju, said that ozone layer protection is essential for the protection of nature. He appealed to everyone to minimize the use of refrigerators, air conditioners, and maintain environmental balance by planting as many trees as possible.

School activity in-charge Guman Singh Pipada introduced INTACH. A quiz competition was held during the program, and certificates were awarded to the winners. On this occasion, Om Narayaniwal, President of Maheshwari Public School, explained the importance of ozone layer protection to the students. The program aimed to raise awareness among students about environmental conservation and the significance of the ozone layer, encouraging them to contribute to a healthier Earth for future generations.

### 3. INTACH organized a Poster Competition for Wildlife Conservation Week 176 Students Spread the Message of Wildlife Conservation Through Their Paintings

Bhilwara. INTACH Bhilwara Chapter organized a poster competition at Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Government Primary School as part of Wildlife Conservation Week. A total of 176 students enthusiastically participated in the competitions held in three different schools, conveying the message of wildlife protection and environmental balance through their paintings.

Addressing the students, the program's chief speaker, INTACH Convener Babulal Jaju, emphasized that wildlife is an integral part of our environment, and that protecting it is essential to maintaining the natural balance. He urged the children to remain vigilant in safeguarding animals and natural resources in their surroundings. During the program, Jaju also planted several trees, including jamun, on the school campus.

INTACH School Activity Incharge Guman Singh Pipada and Suresh Surana reported that in the competition, Kamala Meena came first in the 6th to 8th grade, Akanksha Lakhara second, and Sakshi Khatik third. In the 9th to 10th grade, Gayatri Regar came first, Deepika Regar second, and Sanjana Meena third. Jaju presented certificates and mementos to all participants. Finally, Jaju made the students take a pledge to conserve wildlife.

## **Bundi**

I. Seminar organized on "International Non-Violence Day"

Bundi, October 2. On the occasion of "International Non-Violence Day," a symposium/poetry reading on the importance of non-violence in life and the life of Gandhiji was organized at the State Museum, Sukhmahal, Bundi, under the joint auspices of the Archaeological Department and the Indian Cultural Heritage Fund INTACH Chapter, Bundi. The program was inaugurated by Deputy Superintendent of Police Arun Kumar Sharma, Circle Superintendent Hemendra Awasthi, District Tourism Officer Premshankar Saini, and Chapter Convener Rajkumar Dadhich. Guests were welcomed by Museum Assistant Jagdish Verma.

INTACH member J.P. Tripathi and archaeologist Omprakash Sharma Kukki recited poems, while INTACH member Rajendra Bhardwaj, founding member of the Bundi Brush Institute Nandprakash Sharma (Nanji), Ashok Sharma Talwas, former Sarpanch Mahendra Sharma, Neelam Mathur, Manish Singh Sisodiya, and Anurag Sharma Advocate expressed their views. Circle Superintendent Hemendra Kumar Awasthi read the pledge for non-violence and peace and administered the oath to the students. INTACH Chapter Convener Rajkumar Dadhich presented mementos to the guests, and the students present were taken on a tour of the museum and the Sukhmahal Memorial. Trees were planted on the grounds of the protected monument, Sukhmahal, on this occasion.

II. Bundi. INTACH Chapter, Bundi, celebrated the 210th birth anniversary of the great poet Suryamal Mishran with great enthusiasm and pomp on Kartik Krishna Pratipada. A ceremonial garland was laid at the statue of the great poet at Raniji's stepwell, followed by a heritage tour.

Addressing the ceremony, Rajkumar Dadhich, Convener, INTACH Bundi Chapter said that without the literature and history of Suryamal, the history of Rajasthan would be incomplete. He emphasized that if the legacy of this great poet is forgotten, even the history of India would lose a significant part of its richness. Veer Sat Sai, he said, is a timeless literary work that continues to inspire the spirit of independence. Distinguished guests included Khuman Singh, a descendant of the poet Mahakavi Suryamal Mishran, and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Laxmi Narayan Meena. Rajasthani writers Nandu Rajasthani, Nandlal Rao, Piyush Pachak, Rakesh Saxena, Manmohan Ajmera, Manish Singh Sisodiya, and J.P. Tripathi were honored with mementos for their literary contributions.

Educationist Yudhraj Soni also addressed the gathering. Members of the INTACH Chapter, including Anurag Sharma, Mahendra Sharma Matunda, Nand Prakash Nandji, and Ashok Sharma Talwas, highlighted the literary contributions of the great poet. Convener Rajendra Bhardwaj explained that after the garlanding ceremony, a heritage walk began from Rani Ji Ki Baori. Participants visited various historical monuments in the city and learned about their significance. The tour included stops at Nagar Sagar Kund, Chaugan Darwaza, and several historic mansions, concluding at Mahakavi Suryamal Mishran's ancestral haveli near Suraj Pol. Students from Chambal Nursing College, PM Shri Government Higher Secondary School, Bundi, along with several dignitaries, visited the historic Haveli. Attendees were delighted to witness its architecture and traditional paintings.

Several prominent citizens also participated actively, including Mahavir Sharma, Dr. Yuvraj Singh, Rajendra Sharma, Vinod Singh, Balwant Bhadkatya, K.C. Verma, CO Scout Meherda, Ravi Sharma, Satyanarayan Gautam, Razia Khatoon, Sanjay Khan, Vijendra Jaju, Satyanarayan Somani, Harish Tiwari, Vishwanath Bhardwaj, and other representatives from private schools.

At the conclusion of the event, INTACH member Orak Nayyar spoke about the historical significance of Bhavaldi Stepwell and its connection to the poet's literary work. Anurag Sharma delivered the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all participants and supporters.

III. As part of the birth anniversary celebrations of the great poet, the Bundi Bharti INTACH Chapter organized a lamp-lighting ceremony and Ganga Aarti at Nagar Sagar Kund on Sunday. The entire stepwell was beautifully illuminated by the glow of thousands of lamps. On this occasion, lamps were lit by INTACH Convener Rajkumar Dadhich, Co-Convener Rajendra Bhardwaj, along with Jaiprakash Tripathi, Manmohan Ajmera, Nand Prakash Sharma, Nand Ji, Aurak Nair, Pankaj Dadhich, Piyush Pachak, educationist Tej Kanwar, Meenu Sharma, trade union representative Harish Bilochi, Raj Kumar Shrunji, Raghu Sarang Raj, and others. A special ceremony was also held to honor Ramesht Navyuvak Mandal with a memento for their efforts in cleaning the stepwell ponds. On this occasion, participants reaffirmed their commitment to heritage preservation and pledged not to throw garbage into wells and water bodies.

IV. As part of the Mahakavi Suryamal Mishra Birth Anniversary Week organized by the Indian Cultural Law Chapter, Bundi, a lecture series was held on the fourth day at PM Shri Government Higher Secondary School, Hadedra College, Bundi. The program

was conducted under the chief patronage of Tej Kanwar, former Joint Director, Samagra Shiksha, Kota. Speaking as the Chief Guest, Tej Kanwar stated that Mahakavi Suryamal Mishra, a prominent poet of Charan literature and court poet of the Bundi royal family, awakened the spirit of independence and played a significant role in the 1857 uprising. He emphasized that the poet's writing carried a powerful message that helped strengthen the resolve of the rulers of Rajputana.

Rajkumar Dadhich, Convener, INTACH Bundi Chapter highlighted the literary contributions and heroic life of Mahakavi Suryamal Mishra. He described the poet as a master of warfare, an expert in martial arts, and an accomplished musician. While reciting couplets and verses from Vansh Bhaskar, the epic written in the Dingal language in Charan style, he narrated inspiring episodes from the poet's work. Program coordinators Rajendra Bhardwaj, Manmohan Ajmera, Buddhi Prakash Sharma (President, Rajasthan Teachers' Association - National), School Principal Rajendra Mathur, and Lokesh Vashishtha also discussed the poet's literary legacy. As a gesture of respect, a portrait of Mahakavi Suryamal Mishra was presented to the guests by the INTACH Convener. The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Principal Rajendra Mathur.

V. Bundi: A painting competition was organized by the INTACH Bundi Chapter at Chaugan Gate School, in which nearly 100 girls participated. Sixteen students were selected in the junior and senior categories and were awarded prizes. Speaking on the occasion, INTACH Convener Rajkumar Dadhich said that the Bundi painting style is renowned worldwide, and such competitions encourage students to master this traditional art. He also noted that Mahakavi Suryamal Mishra made a significant contribution to promoting Bundi art through his poetry.

Priyanka Rathore of Maharani School and Lakshya of Chaugan Gate secured first position, whereas Abdul Farhan of Chauhan Gate and Shri Bhardwaj of Maharani School and Niharika of Vikas Nagar Vidyalaya secured second position. While Unnati Maheshwari of Vikas Nagar, Navya Bhatt of Maharani and Abhishek Prajapat of PM Shri Vidyalaya secured third position.

While in the junior category, Rajveer Rawat of PM Shri Vidyalaya and Riya Fatima of Maharani secured first position, Khushi Saini of PM Shri Vidyalaya, Harshit Swami of Maharani and Muskan of Prem Shri also secured second position, while Anjali Nagar, Hemant Naam and Meenakshi Chavariya of Maharani School secured third position. On this occasion, painter Nand Prakash Sharma Nanji explained the tricks of learning painting. Convener Rajendra Bhardwaj also addressed the gathering. The first four prizes were awarded by INTACH, while the remaining 14 were awarded in memory of Mrs. Shankari Devi, wife of the late Gopal Lal Ji Ajmera, by her sons Manmohan Ajmera and Ramraj Ajmera.

Consolation prizes were also presented to all 100 participants. On this occasion, Principal, Government Higher Secondary School, Chaugan Gate, Mrs. Neetu Chahan, praised the INTACH, stating that such competitions would help students become painters. The competition was judged by Mrs. Preeti Saroja and Ms. Mamta Banwal. The competition was conducted by Ritesh Sanadhya.

VI. Bundi: INTACH Chapter, Bundi, inaugurated the tree plantation drive by planting a Shami Khejri sapling in the Suryamal Vatika located at the District Library on the occasion of Dussehra. Following this, various species of saplings were also planted in Sukh Mahal.

On this occasion, Deputy Superintendent of Police Arun Kumar Sharma, Tourism Officer Prem Shankar Saini, INTACH Bundi Chapter Convener Rajkumar Dadhich, Co-Convener Rajendra Bhardwaj, Ashok Kumar Sharma, Jai Prakash Tripathi, Mahendra Sharma Matunda, Nand Prakash Sharma Nazi, Manish Singh Sisodiya, Anurag Sharma Jagdish Verma and many other dignitaries were present.

On the occasion of the 7th World Environment Day, the INTACH Bundi Chapter organized a lecture series at Pathway Institute, Matunda, on the theme “Tourism and Sustainable Change.” The program was attended by both boys and girls, who were informed about the importance of World Tourism Day and its connection to our folk culture, heritage, language, and archaeology. Providing detailed insights, Rajkumar Dadhich, Convener of the INTACH Bundi Chapter, explained that the Indian cultural philosophy of “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” – the world is one family – has helped reduce distances between countries. Today, travel from one place to another has become easier, enabling people to experience diverse cultures while also encouraging the preservation of heritage.

Highlighting Bundi’s immense tourism potential, he stated that the grandeur of our heritage—whether seen in its monuments, ancient rock paintings, or the Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary – continues to hold a distinguished place on the global tourism map. He emphasized that we have inherited a world-class cultural legacy, and it is our responsibility to preserve it for future generations. On this occasion, Pathway Institute Director Sumit Nuwal and Ashish Jaju extended their greetings to all the students on World Tourism Day. Rajendra Bhardwaj, Co-Convener, INTACH Bundi Chapter, board member Ashok Talwas, and former Sarpanch Mahendra Sharma also shared valuable insights with the students.

In her address, the Principal of the institute praised the informative discussions on cultural exchange, educational innovation, tourism, sustainable development, and the Indian Cultural Fund’s “Green Tourism” initiative, aligned with the National Tourism Day theme of “Inclusive Growth.”



*Painting Competition – Bundi Chapter*



*World Environment Day – Bundi Chapter*

### **Chittorgarh – Sub-chapter**

Kanya Pujan is an important ritual performed on the eighth and ninth days of Navratri, where a pledge is taken to educate and protect daughters. This ancient Indian tradition provides every girl child an opportunity for recognition and encouragement. INTACH emphasizes preserving such traditions and respecting the feminine divine. In this spirit, the INTACH Chittorgarh Chapter organized a Kanya Pujan and Kanya Bhoj for rural girls in Borda village, followed by the distribution of gifts.



*Kanya Pujan and Kanya Bhoj – Chittorgarh Chapter*

### **Karauli**

I. Members of INTACH Karauli Chapter celebrated the 678th anniversary of the founding of Karauli city on Devutthapan Ekadashi today.

Rajendra Dewan, INTACH's HECS in-charge, stated that on this occasion, Yuvraj Vivasvat Pal, a member of the royal family and the chief guest, offered prayers at the Kalyanrai Temple, a symbol of Karauli's founding, and wished for the happiness, peace, and prosperity of the residents of Karauli, extending his congratulations to all. Ajjacharya Prakash Chand Jati conducted a collective aarti (worship) ceremony for the ancient idol of Lord Vishnu, representing his 24 incarnations, accompanied by the chanting of sacred mantras. Bhupendra Pal, Manager of the Madan Mohan Temple Trust, offered laddus and distributed them among the devotees.

A symposium was held on this occasion, during which speakers explained that on this very day, Dev Utthapan Ekadashi, in 1348 AD, King Arjun Dev founded Karauli on the

banks of the Bhadravati River. He also established a temple on a high hill near the Panchana confluence, consecrating the remarkable statue of Anjani Mata, the family deity of the Yaduvanshis, depicted breastfeeding baby Hanuman. Additionally, Birwas village was founded as a military cantonment.

Kishan Pal Singh Jadaun, INTACH in-charge and Chief Administrative Officer of the Kailadevi Trust, stated that the INTACH chapter is actively working to raise public awareness about the preservation of Karauli's historical heritage.

Jitendra Singh Pichanot expressed concern over encroachments on Karauli's historic ramparts and other heritage sites. Prakash Chand Jati reported that the historic chhatri (memorial canopy) of Acharya Pundrikji, a Sanskrit scholar from South India, had been destroyed by anti-social elements.

Rajendra Dewan stated that the remarkable constructions from the princely era – such as Harsukh Vilas Garden, Ran Gama Pond, Shahi Kund, Rawal City Palace, numerous temples, Timan Garh, Mandrayal, Untgiri Fort, Bahadurpur Fort, and various other forts and mansions – stand as proud testaments to the history, artistry, and exceptional craftsmanship of the Karauli princely state. These sites, along with the historical events associated with them, reflect the wisdom and bravery of the state's rulers. He emphasized that, taking pride in this heritage, collective efforts are needed to place Karauli prominently on Rajasthan's cultural and historical map, alongside other renowned princely cities.

On this occasion, Dr. Pushpendra Nath Sharma, Manager Motilal Shakywal, Krishnavtar Singh, Mahadev Singh Dantali, Govind Sharma, Keshav Sharma and many other eminent people were present.

II. National Heritage Quiz Competition was organized today at Bhanwar Vilas Marriage Garden under the aegis of INTACH Karauli Chapter.

INTACH HECS In-charge Rajendra Diwan informed that the team of Ishant Chaturvedi and Poorvi Chaturvedi of Lokhitkari Senior Secondary School Karauli was the winner in the competition while the team of Rudraditya Sharma and Jigyasa Shukla of Madhav Bal Senior Secondary School was the runner-up of the quiz.

The winners and all the participants were presented with certificates and prizes by INTACH Chapter Convener Krishna Chandra Pal, Maharani Rohini Kumari and RSS District Sanghchalak Devi Singh Jadon.

Secretary Govind Singh Sengar reported that 125 students from 13 schools participated in the competition. The competition was held in two phases. In the first phase, contestants solved written questions related to heritage. Quiz Master Rajendra Dewan asked the four teams that advanced to the second phase with the highest scores in the first phase, interesting questions related to the heritage of India, Rajasthan, and Karauli in four rounds.

Prizes for the Celebrating India Poster Competition were also distributed. Rajendra Dewan, In-Charge HEC, was honored for the INTACH Chapter receiving the Best Chapter Award nationwide.

The program began with Raj Pandit Prakash Chand Jati worshipping Goddess Saraswati with the chanting of Vedic mantras.

The event was moderated by Krishnavtar Singh, with Pushpendra Bansal and Motilal Shakywal serving as scorers. INTACH members Dr. Pushpendra Nath Sharma, Advocate Santosh Singh Bhadoria, Jitendra Singh Pichanot, along with mentor teachers from all participating schools, were present. Students from the Silent Deaf and Dumb School, Ekta Both Gram, also took part in the competition, showcasing their remarkable talent.

### **Marwar/Jodhpur**

State-Level INTACH Heritage Quiz Competition 2025

Kritika Jindal and Keshav Garg from Jaipur Chapter declared State Winners.

Ishant and Purvi (Karauli) First Runners-up.

Tamanna Singh and Anvi Agarwal (Beawar) Second Runners-up.

“Children should stay away from social media” – Aditi Purohit

The State-Level INTACH Heritage Quiz Competition 2025, organized by the INTACH, Rajasthan Chapter was held today at Chakelav Palace, Mehrangarh Fort, Jodhpur, at 12:00 noon. Kritika Jindal and Keshav Garg from Cambridge Court World School, Jaipur Chapter, emerged as the Rajasthan State Winners. Ishant Chaturvedi and Purvi Chaturvedi from Lok Hitkari Senior Secondary School, Karauli Chapter, were declared First Runners-up, while Tamanna Singh and Anvi Agarwal from Bangar Public School, Beawar Chapter, stood as Second Runners-up.

Participants representing the districts of Ajmer, Alwar, Bhilwara, Beawar, Balotra, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Karauli, Sirohi, Jaipur, and Udaipur took part in the competition. The quiz consisted of four rounds featuring questions on the history, art, culture, and general knowledge of Rajasthan and India.

Chief Guest Ms. Aditi Purohit, Deputy Commissioner, Jodhpur Development Authority, addressed the gathering and advised students to minimize the use of social media. She emphasized engaging in meaningful educational activities for their mental development and warned against the growing problem of mobile addiction. She congratulated all students for reaching the state-level round.

Earlier, the program began with a welcome address by Dr. Mahendra Singh Tanwar, Convener, INTACH Jodhpur Chapter, who greeted all participants, their accompanying teachers and parents, and briefed them on INTACH’s work since its inception in the fields of heritage conservation, environmental protection, and the preservation of history, literature, architecture, and culture.

Certificates and mementos were presented to all winners and participants by Colonel Ajay Singh Shekhawat, Administrative Officer, Mehrangarh Museum Trust; Dr. Mahendra Singh Tanwar, Convener, INTACH Jodhpur Chapter and, Mr. Bhagirath Vaishnav and Mr. Pradeep Soni, Co-Conveners.

The quiz and proceedings were conducted by Dr. Vimlesh Rathore. The Convener extended a vote of thanks to all present. Participants, teachers, and parents were also provided useful insights into history, literature, culture, and architecture.

Valuable support in organizing the event was provided by Dr. Vimlesh Rathore, Varendra Singh, Indrajit Sharma, Babu K., Pramod Singh Bhati, Hukam Singh, and Niranjan Singh.

The Rajasthan State Winners will now represent the state at the National INTACH Heritage Quiz to be held in New Delhi.



*State-Level INTACH Heritage Quiz Competition 2025 -Jodhpur Chapter*

Exhibition on “Mahamandir Baori Restoration and Jodhpur City's Heritage” - Under the joint auspices of Anandaya Foundation, INTACH Jodhpur Chapter, Mehrangarh Museum Trust, and Jodhpur Lore, an exhibition titled “Mahamandir Baori Restoration and Jodhpur City's Heritage” was organized at Mahamandir Baori on September 2, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. The exhibition was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Maharaja Shri Gaj Singh Ji.

The exhibition highlighted the restoration work of the Jhalare and showcased key aspects



of Jodhpur's heritage, including ancient stepwells, the inner city, and the Clock Tower. Maharaja Shri Gaj Singh Ji and other distinguished guests visited the exhibition and appreciated the efforts taken. The exhibition was curated under the guidance of Dr. Mahendra Singh Tanwar. On this occasion, students of Vidyaashram International School presented a cultural programme and performed a short play conveying the message of water

conservation. Lamps were lit around the Jhalare, adding to the beauty of the stepwell.

Ms. Anandaya shared detailed information about the Panghat Conservation Project undertaken by her foundation. She expressed her commitment to preserving the historical significance of the Jhalare through its proper restoration and upkeep and emphasized giving priority to the conservation of other ancient Jhalares as well. She appealed to the public to support the water conservation movement.

The first round of the INTACH National Heritage Quiz Competition 2025 was held at Konark Senior Secondary School on September 12, 2025, with the aim of enhancing students' knowledge about local heritage and fostering awareness of India's rich history and culture. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students of Classes 7 to 10.

A total of 97 students from seven schools participated, accompanied by their teachers. Participants were given 25 general knowledge questions related to the history, art, culture, and heritage of Jodhpur, Rajasthan, and India, to be answered within forty minutes.

After a keenly contested written round, the top ten teams were selected for the oral rounds. In the three rounds that followed, Dhairya Maheshwari and Mukut Bhati from Delhi Public School secured first place and became the Jodhpur Chapter winners. Hiten Chaudhary and Jatin Bajaj, also from Delhi Public School, placed second, and Lakshya Agarwal and Soham Bohra placed third.



*Exhibition on "Mahamandir Baori Restoration and Jodhpur City's Heritage"*

## **Nagaur**

1. Meera Mahotsav 4th October 2025

The foundation day of the Bhakt Shiromani Meerabai Memorial Panorama, established by the Rajasthan Heritage Authority, was celebrated with great joy and enthusiasm in Merta, the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), Nagaur Chapter also participated in the event.

The city of Meera resonated with devotional melodies and graceful folk dances. Known as the capital of devotion and folk culture, Meera Nagari Merta was completely immersed in devotional fervor on the night of October 4.

On the occasion of the 18th Foundation Day of the Bhakt Shiromani Meerabai Memorial Panorama, established by the Rajasthan Heritage Authority, and organized in collaboration with INTACH Nagaur Chapter and the Sub-Divisional Tourism Development Committee, a one-day cultural program titled "Meera Utsav" was celebrated with great enthusiasm, grandeur, and dignity.

"Meera Utsav" became a confluence of devotion and folk culture.

During the cultural evening organized on this occasion, artists from the West Zone Cultural Centre (Udaipur), Sangeet Natak Academy (Jodhpur), and local performers from Merta gave such captivating performances that the audience swayed with joy late into the night.

At the venue, Rao Dudagarh campus, the melodious tunes of Meera bhajans, folk songs, and mesmerizing dance performances echoed until late night.

The event began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp.

The entire atmosphere became devotional with the resonating chant of “Payo Ji Maine Ram Ratan Dhan Payo.”

Artists’ performances captivated the audience.

The program began with Dayaram and Party, renowned bhajan singers from Sangeet Natak Academy, Jodhpur, performing Shri Ganesh Vandana and Meera bhajans such as “Saare Jag Mein Naam Kamayo Re Meera Medtani.”

Their performance was accompanied by beautiful dance presentations that enthralled the audience.

Next, local artist Bhavansingh and Group presented folk songs dedicated to Folk Deity Tejaji Maharaj and traditional Rajasthani folk dances, leaving everyone deeply moved.

The international artists Rajendra Singh Sehor and Group from the West Zone Cultural Centre performed the Laal Angi Geer Dance, showcasing a glimpse of Rajasthani tradition on stage.

At the main entrance of the Meera Memorial Panorama, INTACH Nagaur Chapter arranged Nagada and Shehnai performances to welcome the visitors.

During the program, children and youth also performed short plays based on Meera’s devotion, adding more charm to the evening.

“Meera Panorama is the most popular memorial in the state” – Omkar Singh Lakhawat

Chief Guest Omkar Singh Lakhawat, in his address, said that under an important project of the Rajasthan Government, panoramas dedicated to local deities and great personalities have been constructed across various districts over the past two decades.

He mentioned that four panoramas have been built in the Nagaur district so far, but the Meera Memorial Panorama in Merta remains the most visited and continues to hold the No. 1 position in the state.

He added, “Meera is not just a symbol of devotion, but also represents the revolutionary feminine power of medieval Rajasthan. The Meera Memorial in Merta is a confluence of both devotion and culture.”

He further informed that the state government has included this memorial under the ‘Panch Gaurav Yojana’ and sanctioned ₹42 lakh for its development.

Under this initiative, a music and song gallery will soon be established here, where devotees will be able to listen to the bhajans of all folk deities within the same premises.



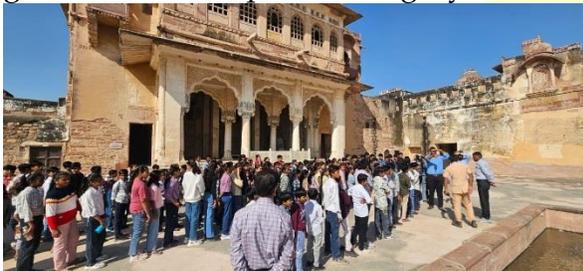
*Meera Mahotsav – Nagaur Chapter*

2. On 14 November 2025, nearly 300 enthusiastic students from the INTACH Heritage Five Clubs participated in a memorable Heritage Walk at the historic Nagaur Fort.

As they explored the fort, the students were deeply fascinated by its majestic architecture, ancient passages, and the intricate wall paintings that beautifully reflect the artistic brilliance of our heritage. Their excitement and curiosity added vibrant energy to the entire visit.

To make the experience more comfortable and enjoyable for them, we distributed bananas and soft drinks to all the students. It was heartwarming to see their smiling faces and the genuine appreciation they expressed.

The walk not only helped them connect with the rich history of Nagaur but also strengthened their sense of pride towards our culture and heritage. It was truly a rewarding day—one that will hopefully inspire these young minds to become future guardians of our priceless legacy.



*Heritage Walk at the historic Nagaur Fort – Nagaur Chapter*

## **Pali**

Meme pf Pali Chapter, Rajasthan, sorrowfully informing you that our late convener, Shri Arjun Singh Sekhawat, Padam Shri dead on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at the age of 94 years. Her served INTACH from 35 year and as Convener(from 2005 to 2010) for five years.

Mr. Sekhawat was a well known writer of Rajasthani language. He wrote many books on tribble culture and their livelihood, art social life and tried to uplift them society as well as economically. Her was awarded and honored by many organizations and NGOs. He struggled whole life for recognition of Rajasthani language to enlisted in 8<sup>th</sup> “Ansuchi of Indian constitution”.

His contribution towards INTACH was incredible, regularly till death he worked for conservation and preservation of our Culture, Art and Heritage.

Pali Chapter organize a condolence meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2025 at Ranakpur historical site and prayed to almighty god to give peace and place to his soul and empower his family to bear loss.

### **Sawai Madhopur**

1. On 23 July 2025, the General Body Meeting of the Sawai Madhopur Chapter was held at Jogi Mahal Restaurant. On this occasion, the Chief Guest, Mr. Mohammad Yunus Khan, Director of the Rajiv Gandhi Natural Museum, was welcomed by Chapter member Mr. Chandrashekhar Joshi. The Special Guest, renowned satirist Mr. Prabha Shankar Upadhyay, was welcomed by Mr. Vimlesh Sharma, and senior member Mr. Praveen Sharma welcomed Mr. Vinod Sharma, Tehsildar of the City Development Trust. Chapter Convener Padam Khatri welcomed all the members and shared detailed information about the Chapter's upcoming plans, as well as the income and expenditure details of the previous year. New Life Member Mr. Govardhan Lal Kumawat, Mr. Shraavan Kumar Jain (who was promoted from Associate Member to Life Member), and new Ordinary Member Mr. Ramji Lal Meena were welcomed with garlands by Co-Convener Mr. Hanuman Sharma. Mr. Prabha Shankar Upadhyay shared selected excerpts from his new book Invisible Idiot for the members, while Chapter member Mr. Chandrashekhar Joshi recited some of his newly written poems. Finally, Chapter Convener Mr. Hanuman Sharma expressed his gratitude to all attendees. The meeting concluded with a fellowship lunch.

2. In August, the Chapter's founding member, Advocate Mr. Ishwar Maheshwari, passed away tragically. On this occasion, the Chapter members held a meeting to express their grief over the demise of Mr. Ishwar Maheshwari and remembered his dedication to INTACH.

3. Environmentalist and Nature Guide, Advocate Mr. Lekhraj Singh Rathore, accepted the General Membership of INTACH. His membership will provide the Chapter with the participation of a new active social worker.



### 1. Guru Purnima Celebration – St. Anthony’s Senior Secondary School, Goverdhan Vilas (10 July 2025)



The Heritage Club of **St. Anthony’s Senior Secondary School, Goverdhan Vilas** celebrated **Guru Purnima** to honour the age-old Indian tradition of paying respect to teachers. Students presented speeches, songs, and poems highlighting the **Guru-Shishya heritage**, fostering cultural pride and gratitude toward educators who guide and shape young minds with wisdom.

### 2. Guru Purnima Celebration – St. Anthony School, Hiran Magri (11 July 2025)

The INTACH Heritage Club of **St. Anthony School, Hiran Magri, Udaipur**, celebrated



Guru Purnima with deep reverence and enthusiasm. The programme honoured teachers and highlighted their role in nurturing students.

Highlights of the celebration included:

- **Speeches** on the significance of Guru Purnima and the role of gurus in shaping lives
- A **special skit** depicting the traditional **Guru-Shishya Parampara**, emphasizing how ancient

India preserved knowledge through this sacred bond

- **Dance performances** celebrating culture and gratitude

The event served as a heartfelt tribute to teachers who illuminate the path of knowledge and character-building.

### 3. World Population Day – Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya (12 July 2025)



Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya observed **World Population Day** under the banner of the INTACH Heritage Club to raise awareness on population issues and encourage critical thinking. A debate competition was organised for Classes 9 and 10.

**Class 9 Debate Topic:**

*“Education is the most effective means of population control.”*

- Class 9 ‘A’ – Against the motion
- Class 9 ‘B’ – In favour of the motion

**Class 10 Debate Topic:**

*“Population is the biggest threat to sustainable development.”*

- Class 10 ‘A’ – Against the motion
- Class 10 ‘B’ – In favour of the motion

Teachers and judges appreciated the students’ effort and encouraged them to continue engaging in meaningful dialogue. The event proved to be an excellent platform for discussing population control and sustainable development.

#### 4. Field Trip to Ahad Museum – Rockwoods High School (19 July 2025)



The INTACH Heritage Club students of **Rockwoods High School** visited the **Ahad Museum, Udaipur**, where they explored Rajasthan’s rich history through royal artefacts, weapons, paintings, and traditional costumes. The exhibits offered deep insights into the legacy of the **Mewar dynasty**.

The educational trip enriched students’ understanding of regional heritage and sparked further interest in cultural preservation.

#### 5. Hariyali Amavasya Celebration – Rockwoods High School (23 July 2025)



Students of Rockwoods High School celebrated **Hariyali Amavasya**, marking the onset of the monsoon season. To honour this traditional festival, students

brought a variety of **green food items** to share. They also prepared



**micro-greens at home** and planted saplings, reinforcing values of environmental responsibility.

The initiative beautifully combined tradition with sustainability, fostering a deeper appreciation for nature.

#### 6. Hariyalo Amavas Celebration – Seedling School (24 July 2025)

On 24 July, Seedling School organised a vibrant fair as part of the Grade VIII special assembly, celebrating **Hariyali Amavasya**.



The fair showcased:

- Traditional crafts
- Organic and eco-friendly products
- Handmade items

Cultural performances highlighted the **historical importance** of the festival, bringing alive its essence. The celebration successfully blended festive spirit with cultural learning.

#### 7. Investiture Ceremony – INTACH Heritage Club, Maharana Mewar Public School (7 August 2025)

The INTACH Heritage Club of **Maharana Mewar Public School** held its **Investiture Ceremony** under the guidance of **Mr. Gaurav Singhvi**, Convener, INTACH Udaipur Chapter, along with Life Members **Mr. Satish Sharma** and **Ms. Ranu Singhvi**.

### Highlights of the ceremony:

- Annual Report Presentation (2024–25)
- Felicitation of club members and teachers
- **INTACH Heritage Club** adjudged **No. 1 in the country for the 4th consecutive year**
- **Naman Mukesh Mehta** awarded Best Heritage Club Student



- Heritage Beacon Award conferred to the school and **Ms. Pratima Paliwal** for Engagement Excellence
- Sashes presented to newly elected Club President and executives
- Cultural performances: Shlok Path, Poem Recitation, Shiv Stuti Dance, Ghoomar, and Group Song
- Prizes for Best Newsletter Entry and Social Media Challenge
- Motivational speech by **Mr. Gaurav Singhvi** and address by **Mr. Satish Sharma**
- Blessings from **Director Mr. S.K. Sharma**
- Vote of thanks and presentation by newly elected Club President and members

The ceremony was meticulously organized by Club Incharges: **Ms. Pratima Paliwal, Ms. Saba Shaukat, Ms. Sunita Sisodiya, and Ms. Richa Gaur.**

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### 8. World Elephant Day – Maharana Mewar Public School (12 August 2025)

On World Elephant Day, Maharana Mewar Public School conducted awareness activities to highlight the ecological importance of elephants.



#### Programmes included:

- Documentary screening “*How India is Winning the Battle of Elephant Conservation*” for Grades I–IV
- Themed PowerPoint *Matriarchs & Memories* presenting rare facts about elephants
- Expert talk for Grade IX by **Dr. Satish Kumar Sharma**, former Forest Department Officer, covering conservation challenges and human-wildlife conflict

The celebration inspired students to become informed and committed champions for wildlife conservation.

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### 9. Investiture Ceremony – Maharana Mewar Vidya Mandir (21 August 2025)



The **INTACH Club** at **Maharana Mewar Vidya Mandir (MMVM)** held the **Investiture Ceremony** for newly elected executive members. The event was graced by:

- **Prof. Maheep Bhatnagar**, Former Dean and Chairman, Faculty of Science, MLSU
- **Ms. Priyanka Vaishnav**, Faculty, Verve – School of Interior Architecture Design & Vastu

- **Ms. Shalini** and Principal **Mr. Yogendra Karare**

The baton of duties was handed over to the new members, who pledged to actively preserve Indian heritage. **Mr. Gaurav Singhvi** and **Dr. Maheep Bhatnagar** motivated students to engage deeply with cultural preservation. The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks by the Principal.

## 10. Experiencing Heritage Through Hands-On Art and Culture - Rockwoods International School

Students of **Rockwoods International School** participated in an immersive programme celebrating India's living and textile heritage.

### Highlights:

- **Team Sadhna** facilitated sessions on handloom techniques and textile crafts
- Students created artwork on **jute fabric using colored woolen threads**
- Visit to **Shilpgram**, exploring mud-and-thatch huts, puppet performances, vegetable printing, and tie-dye painting
- Engaged students with traditional crafts, storytelling, and cultural performances

The programme fostered creativity, cultural awareness, and appreciation for India's rich heritage.

## 11. Digitization of 29 Handwritten Books on Bhakti - Verve: School of Design & Vastu



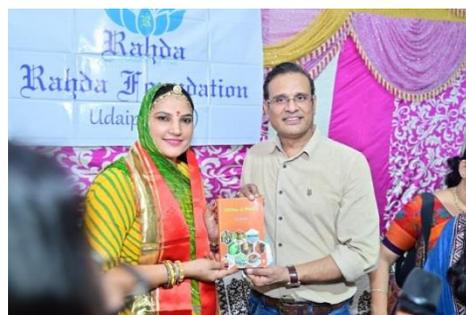
Under the guidance of **Convener Gaurav Singhvi**, 29 handwritten books on **Bhakti and Shrinath Ji** were successfully digitized at **Verve - The School of Design & Vastu**.



This initiative preserves valuable literary heritage and makes it accessible for future generations.

## 12. Ruma Devi Visit - 13 September 2025

The INTACH Udaipur Chapter hosted **Ruma Devi**, renowned traditional handicraft



designer and social worker from Barmer, Rajasthan, recipient of the **Nari Shakti Puraskar 2018**. She is associated with a network of over 50,000 rural women artisans.



### Highlights of the event:

- Welcomed by **Convener Gaurav Singhvi**, who presented her the book *Rajasthan Ke Lok Geet*

- Discussion on **Women Empowerment** and protection of traditional textiles
- Nearly **30 girls** actively participated and interacted
- Ruma Devi performed **traditional songs**, engaging attendees in a soulful musical session

### 13. Museum on Wheels - 15 September 2025

Rockwoods High School hosted the **Museum on Wheels**, a traveling exhibition featuring sculptures from **ancient India, Egypt, Syria, Greece, and Rome**.



#### Event Highlights:

- Organized in collaboration with **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, Mumbai, Rotary Club Meera, and Yuva Udaipur**
- Led by **Ms. Dristi Rao**, Incharge of INTACH Heritage Club, and student volunteers
- Students explored rich art and culture of diverse civilizations through immersive displays
- Provided both **educational value and inspiration**, strengthening students' understanding of global and Indian heritage

### 14. INTACH National Heritage Quiz - 28 September 2025

The **INTACH National Heritage Quiz 2025-26** was successfully conducted at **Rockwoods High School, Udaipur**, with **108 students** from **17 schools** participating.



#### Highlights:

- Oral rounds conducted by **Mr. Satish Sharma** and **Mr. Vishnu Sharma (Wonder Cement)**
- Distinguished members present included **Gaurav Singhvi, Sushil Dashora, Rahul Bhatnagar, Rashi Mathur, Priyank Vaishnav, Jagdish Paliwal, Shristi Hemnani**
- Certificates of participation awarded to all students
- Top teams received **books** as prizes, and the winning team, **Seedling School (Ginni Dalal & Surya Sharma)**, advanced to the **State Level Round**
- Event hospitality supported by **Wonder Cement**, serving refreshments to 150 participants and guests



### 15. Capacity Enhancement Programme on Tie and Dye - 29 August 2025

INTACH Udaipur conducted a **Capacity Building Programme on Bandhani Tie and Dye** for girls and women, aimed at reviving India's traditional textile heritage.

#### Programme Highlights:

- Practical training in various techniques: stripe design, basic circle, floral border, stitching, dots, rouching, and fold methods
- Creation of dupattas, scarves, and handkerchiefs using natural materials (chana dal, mustard seeds, U-pins, hairpins, moong)
- Expert guidance by **Dr. Dolly Mogra** and **Lt. Dr. Simple Jain**
- Conducted under the encouragement of **Convener Gaurav Singhvi**, empowering participants while reinforcing the importance of cultural preservation



### 16. Katputli Kala – Conserve Rajasthan’s Puppetry Heritage – 30 August 2025

A one-day programme was organized to raise awareness and promote conservation of Rajasthan’s traditional puppetry art form.



#### Key Details:

- Conducted under guidance of **Shri Gaurav Singhvi, Convener, INTACH Udaipur**
- Expert sessions by **Dr. Dolly Mogra** and **Lt. Dr. Simple Jain**, covering historical significance, techniques, and urgent need for preservation
- **45 participants** attended, engaging in interactive discussions and demonstrations
- Programme contributed to cultural heritage awareness and encouraged community participation in conserving Rajasthan’s puppetry legacy

### 17. Programme on Rural Tourism for Conserving Cultural Heritage – 13 September 2025

INTACH Udaipur organized a **one-day programme on Rural Tourism** aimed at conserving cultural heritage while promoting sustainable development and community participation.

#### Key Highlights:

- Conducted under the guidance of **Shri Gaurav Singhvi, Convener, INTACH Udaipur**
- Expert speakers: **Dr. Dolly Mogra** and **Lt. Dr. Simple Jain**
- **50 participants** actively engaged in sessions including discussions, participatory lecturettes, and brainstorming exercises
- Emphasis on **eco-tourism, rural development, and women’s empowerment**
- Participants explored practical strategies for promoting local heritage, traditional arts, crafts, and eco-friendly tourism models
- Received **positive feedback** for successfully connecting cultural conservation with grassroots empowerment

## 18. Denmark Workshop – 22–24 September 2025

Convener **Gaurav Singhvi**, Scientific Vastu Consultant & Interior Architecture Designer,



was invited to attend an international **workshop in Aarhus, Denmark**, alongside Rajasthan government delegates from Jaipur and other Baltic region representatives.

### **Significance:**

- Opportunity to share expertise on heritage, architecture, and cultural conservation
- Platform for international exchange of ideas on sustainable and heritage-based development practices

## 19. Denmark Conference – International Participation

The Interreg Baltic Sea Region, European Union & City Blues of Denmark invited



INTACH Udaipur Convener **Mr. Gaurav S. Singhvi** to present his paper at the **City Blues Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) International Conference** held at the **Aarhus Town Hall, Denmark**.



The event featured global organisations,

including:

NINA – Norwegian Institute for Nature Research • Nature-Based Solutions Platform • Nature Based Solutions Institute • Centre for Nature-based Solutions • Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA) • ICLEI Europe • ICLEI South Asia • Biodiversa+ • Biodiverse Cities • Invest4Nature

Mr. Singhvi, an Interior Architecture Designer & Scientific Vastu Consultant, presented his paper titled:

**“Cultural Heritage as a Vital Pillar for Successful Development of Nature-Based Solutions: Insights from India to Denmark.”**

His contribution highlighted the deep interconnection between traditional cultural knowledge systems and sustainable ecological practices.



## 20. Visit to INTACH Delhi Headquarters – 10 October 2025

Convener **Mr. Gaurav Singhvi** visited the INTACH Delhi Headquarters and spent the day with:

**Chairman Shri Ashok Thakur, Member Secretary Shri Ravindra Singh, Shri Arvind Shukla, Shri Manu**



**Bhatnagar, Ms. Purnima Dutta, Ms. Bindu, and Shri Nilabh.** The meetings were highly enriching, with discussions on futuristic ideas, collaborative opportunities, and strategic guidance for strengthening initiatives across various divisions of the Udaipur Chapter.

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## 21. Denmark Tie-Up with INTACH Udaipur Chapter

The INTACH Udaipur Chapter received a formal **Letter of Collaboration** from Denmark's **CityBlues - Natural Heritage Division**, establishing a partnership for joint initiatives, knowledge sharing, and heritage-led sustainable development projects.

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## 22. Workshop on Reuse of Textile Waste - 11 October 2025

INTACH Udaipur successfully conducted a one-day workshop on **Reuse of Textile Waste** under the guidance of Convener **Shri Gaurav Singhvi**.



Key highlights:

- Demonstrations by experts on transforming old sarees and wool into **foot mats, eco-friendly bags, and reusable craft items**



- Hands-on participation by attendees, who created their own products during the workshop
  - Technical expertise provided by **Dr. Dolly Mogra** and **Lt. Dr. Simple Jain**
- The workshop promoted sustainable living and encouraged participants to adopt eco-friendly practices in everyday life.

## Tamil Nadu Chennai

### INTACH Chennai Chapter - Madras Week Programmes (August 2025)

INTACH (Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage), a non-profit organisation dedicated to the conservation of India's tangible and intangible heritage, continues to champion the preservation of unprotected cultural assets. To further these goals, the Chennai Chapter regularly organizes talks, walks, exhibitions, awareness programmes, and workshops.

This August, as the city celebrated **Madras Day**, INTACH Chennai curated a bouquet of programmes for diverse audiences – students, teachers, and the general public. The Chapter fondly dedicates all these initiatives to **Mrs. Tara Murali**, who devoted her life to heritage and environmental causes.

**1. Keynote Address – SRM School of Architecture and Interior Design (4 August 2025)**  
**Ms. Sujatha Shankar**, Convener, INTACH Chennai Chapter, delivered the Keynote Address at the Faculty Development Programme themed “**Honouring Madras – The Essential Role of Heritage Conservation**” at SRM, Kattankulathur. The interactive session deepened awareness about Chennai’s rich architectural and cultural legacy.

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**2. Talk on ‘Madras Art Deco Architecture’ – Chennai International Centre (16 August 2025)**

At Tagore Auditorium, R.A. Puram, **Ms. Sujatha Shankar** presented a talk celebrating **100 years of Art Deco (1925–2025)**. She highlighted how this influential global design movement, first showcased at the 1925 Paris Exposition, was enthusiastically embraced by Madras, contributing to the city’s unique architectural identity.

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**3. “Madras to Madrid” – Exhibition & Talk (20 August 2025)**

In collaboration with **Kreeda**, INTACH Chennai hosted an engaging public programme titled “**Madras to Madrid.**” The session featured **Ms. Vinita Sidhartha**, who spoke on traditional Indian games as tools for learning, strategy, and community bonding. The highlight was the journey of the **Dahdi game (Nine Men’s Morris)** from India to Spain. A replica of the Spanish *Book of Games* was on display, enabling visitors to explore this historic manuscript firsthand.

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**4. INDIA HERITAGE QUIZ 2025 – Chennai Round (23 August 2025)**

The always-popular **INTACH Heritage Quiz** was held at Sri Sankara Vidyashramam School, Thiruvannamiyur. Organized by Young INTACH, the quiz was conducted by senior member **Ms. Susha Natraj**, known for her engaging style.

**Participation:**

- **66 teams** from **20 schools**
- **5 teams** qualified for the final round:
  1. AMM School
  2. DAV Boys School
  3. PSBB Millennium School, Gerugambakkam
  4. Sri Sankara Senior Secondary School, Adyar
  5. Sri Sankara Vidyalaya, Urapakkam

**Winners:**

**Anirudh Prem and Prabhav Nandan R.** of **PSBB Millennium School, Gerugambakkam** emerged winners and now qualify for the **Tamil Nadu State Finals**, with a chance to advance to the **National Finals**.

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**5. Heritage Training Workshop for Teachers – INTACH & Kreeda (30 August 2025)**

A special **Heritage Training Workshop** was conducted exclusively for school teachers. Over **40 teachers** participated in the session, led by **Ms. Vinita Sidhartha**, who demonstrated how traditional Indian games can be integrated into the teaching process. These games, she explained, can help reinforce concepts in mathematics, science, and social studies by enhancing skills such as mental calculation, planning, and problem-solving – all while making learning enjoyable.

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## 6. Film Screening & Address - SAVEETHA College of Architecture (30 August 2025)

As Chief Guest at the Madras Day Celebrations at SAVEETHA College of Architecture and Interior Design, **Ms. Sujatha Shankar** addressed students on heritage conservation and screened the documentary “**Story of Madras - The First City of Modern India.**” Narrated by historian **S. Muthiah** and directed by Ms. Shankar, the film highlights the birth of major Indian institutions in Madras—Education, Railways, Municipal Governance, Medicine, Survey of India, and more—while tracing the evolution of its built heritage.



*Heritage Training Workshop for Teachers – Chennai Chapter*



*INTACH team with the winners of the Heritage quiz – Chennai Chapter*

## 7 'Preservation of Archival Heritage of India'

Talk by Bhujang Ramrao Bobade - 17 July 2025

Venue: Alliance Française of Madras\*\*

INTACH Chennai hosted a talk by **Shri Bhujang Ramrao Bobade**, Director, Heritage



Foundation of India, on the preservation of India's archival heritage. A noted heritage conservationist, researcher, and advocate for cultural education, he has contributed extensively to museum studies and heritage interpretation.

He highlighted the crucial roles played by institutions such as the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** and the **National Archives of India (NAI)** in safeguarding monuments, sites, and documentary records. His lecture offered valuable

insights into the educational role of museums and the challenges and opportunities in archival documentation and preservation.

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## 8. 'Honouring Madras - The Essential Role of Heritage Conservation'



Keynote Address by Sujatha Shankar – 4 August 2025  
Venue: SRM School of Architecture & Interior Design, Kattankulathur\*\*

**Ms. Sujatha Shankar**, Convener, INTACH Chennai Chapter, delivered the keynote address for a Faculty Development Programme focused on the architectural and cultural legacy of Chennai. The session deepened participants' understanding of the city's historic built environment and stressed the importance of heritage-

sensitive urban development.

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## 9. 'Celebrating 100 Years of Art Deco Architecture'

Talk by Sujatha Shankar – 16 August 2025

Venue: Tagore Auditorium, Tamil Nadu Government Music College, Chennai\*\*

Marking the global centenary of the Art Deco movement (1925–2025), Ms. Shankar spoke on the evolution of **Madras Art Deco Architecture**. She explored how this modern design vocabulary – first presented at the 1925 Paris Exposition – was enthusiastically adopted by Madras, shaping a distinctive urban aesthetic that continues to define the cityscape.

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## 10. 'Madras to Madrid: The Story of a Game'

Talk by Vinita Sidhartha – 20 August 2025



Venue: Kreedha, GR Complex, Anna Salai, Nandanam\*\*

INTACH Chennai and **Kreedha** jointly conducted this public programme featuring an exhibition and talk by **Mrs. Vinita Sidhartha**. She highlighted the cultural relevance of traditional Indian games, emphasizing their role in building strategy, cooperation, and resilience. The central focus was the journey of the **Dahdi game (Nine Men's Morris)** from India to Spain.

A replica of the historic **Spanish Book of Games** was also displayed, enabling participants to engage directly with this centuries-old manuscript.

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## 11. 'Heritage Training Workshop for Teachers'

INTACH & Kreedha – 30 August 2025

Venue: Kreedha, GR Complex, Anna Salai, Nandanam\*\*



Over **40 school teachers** participated in this special training workshop designed to integrate traditional games into classroom teaching. **Mrs. Vinita Sidhartha** demonstrated how indigenous games can be valuable tools for teaching mathematics, science, social studies, problem-solving,

planning, and mental agility – making learning both engaging and culturally rooted.

The workshop was organised by Young INTACH team members **Mrs. Shama Prasanna & Mrs. Sushi Natraj**.

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## 12. Madras Day Celebration – Film Screening

'The Story of Madras...



Chennai: The First City of Modern India' Screening & Address by Sujatha Shankar – 30 August 2025

Venue: Saveetha College of Architecture and Interior Design, Poonamallee\*\*

As Chief Guest for the Madras Day celebrations, Ms. Shankar addressed students on the evolution of Chennai's heritage. The documentary "**Story of Madras – The First City of Modern India**", narrated by noted historian **S. Muthiah** and directed by Ms. Shankar, was screened. The film traces the city's history, emphasising its pioneering role in the establishment of major institutions such as Education, Railways, Medicine, Municipal Governance, and Survey of India.

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## 13. 'Research–Document–Revive': The Languishing Craft of Chettinad

Talk & Display by Mrs. Visalakshi Ramaswamy – 29 October 2025



Venue: 'Manjal', MRC Nagar, R.A. Puram, Chennai\*\*

In collaboration with the **M.Rm.Rm. Cultural Foundation**, INTACH Chennai organized an enriching session on the documentation and revival of Chettinad's traditional crafts, with a special focus on **Kottan Palm Leaf Basketry**.

**Mrs. Visalakshi Ramaswamy**, founder of the Foundation and a leading craft revivalist, spoke about her decades-long work in preserving Chettinad's cultural heritage.

### Key Highlights:

- The revival of **Kottan**, the traditional Chettinad palm-leaf basket, which has received the **UNESCO Seal of Excellence seven times**.
- Her documentation of Chettinad lifestyle, crafts, textiles, and rituals, culminating in landmark publications.

- Her contributions to the revival of **Athangudi tiles**, traditional saris of Karaikudi and Kanchipuram, and heritage building crafts such as lime stucco and egg plaster.
- Her initiatives in creating museum spaces, including the transformation of **MRM House, Kanadukathan**, into a heritage museum.

Mrs. Ramaswamy has been widely recognised with prestigious awards including the **IBCN Award, FICCI FLO Women Achievers Award, The Hindu World of Women Award, Devi Award, and TATA Taneira's Catalyst in Arts Award**. She will assume the role of **Chairperson, Crafts Council of India**, in 2026.

#### 14. Obituary – Mrs. Tara Murali

(October 2, 1949 – July 26, 2025)

INTACH mourns the passing of **Mrs. Tara Murali**, an esteemed architect, heritage conservationist, and one of the most respected voices in the preservation of Chennai's architectural legacy. She left for her heavenly abode on **26th July 2025**, leaving behind an enduring legacy of commitment, scholarship, and service to heritage.



Born on **2nd October 1949**, Mrs. Murali pursued architecture with a deep passion that soon evolved into a lifelong mission to safeguard the built heritage of Tamil Nadu. As a senior INTACH member and a core contributor to numerous conservation efforts, she played a pivotal role

in raising awareness about the value of historic buildings, traditional streetscapes, and urban cultural identity.

INTACH fondly remembers **Mrs. Tara Murali** as a remarkable conservationist, mentor, colleague, and friend. Her loss leaves a void that cannot be filled, but her work and values will remain a lasting beacon for all who believe in protecting our shared heritage.

**May her soul rest in eternal peace.**

#### Coimbatore

Heritage Walk

Date: 9th September 2025

Route: CSI All Souls' Church – Koniamman Temples & Athar Jamad Mosque – Chithirai Chavadi Check Dam – Surrounding Lakes

Conducted by: INTACH Coimbatore Chapter in association with PSG Institute of Management

Resource Person: Historian Mr. C.R. Elangovan

The INTACH Coimbatore Chapter, in association with PSG Institute of Management, organized a special Heritage Walk for foreign exchange students from Germany. The objective of the walk was to educate the visiting students about the rich and diverse heritage of Coimbatore, offering them a unique insight into the region's history, culture, and traditions.



The walk, held on September 9th, 2025, was conducted in the presence of Mr. Jaganathan S, Convener of INTACH Coimbatore; Mr. S Ramachandra Prasad, Former Convener; Mr. S Srinivasan, Dean of PSG Institute of Management; and other INTACH members. The historical narrative and expert commentary for the walk were provided by renowned historian Mr. C.R. Elangovan. The event began at the historic CSI All Souls' Church, a

heritage structure built in 1872. The church priest welcomed the 15 students and delivered a brief, interactive address. Following this, Mr. Srinivasan and Mr. Jaganathan addressed the gathering before Mr. C.R. Elangovan introduced the students to the history of Coimbatore. The group then proceeded to the Chithirai Chavadi Anaikattu by the Noyyal River, a marvel of the Chola era. On their way, the students visited and learned about other tangible heritage such as Koniamman Temple and Athar Jamad Mosque.

At Chithirai Chavadi, the historian explained the visionary water management system of the Cholas and its vital role in enriching the region's agricultural fertility. On the way back, the tour also covered several man-made lakes built by the Cholas, further explaining the area's agricultural ecosystem, migratory birds, and city planning. The students were provided with a graphical representation of the water eco system.



This historical system, centered around the Noyyal River, is the very lifeline of Coimbatore. It is a testament to ingenious traditional water management, where a network of interconnected tanks was strategically created to manage river flow, support agriculture, and recharge groundwater. Structures like the Chithirai Chavadi check dam play a crucial role in this system by slowing the water flow, which helps prevent floods and ensures a sustainable water supply.



A truly memorable moment occurred when a local farmer, upon learning of the walk's purpose, graciously invited the entire group to his farmhouse for refreshments. This spontaneous gesture of kindness left the German students awe-struck, providing them with a heartfelt experience of the hospitable nature of Indians. The students thoroughly enjoyed the walk, expressing their admiration for Coimbatore's lush green heritage and the immersive cultural experience.



*Heritage Walks*

## **Nagercoil**

Heritage Visit of INTACH Nagercoil Chapter on 6.9.2025

1. South Travancore Lines of K.K.Dist
2. Kanyakumari Govt Museum
3. Shrine of Our Lady of Ransom, Kanyakumari
4. Guhanatheeswarar temple, Kanyakumari

1. South Travancore Lines of K.K.Dist visited on 6.9.2025

The South Travancore Lines refer to a historical line of ramparts in Kanyakumari, built by King Marthanda Varma to defend Nanjil Nadu, a fertile region in the state of Travancore.

The South Travancore lines were built by the Raja Bala Marthanda Varma (1728 to 1759) to protect Travancore Princely State from the invading armies from Tirunelveli side in 18th century. It served as a southern western boundary of Travancore.

Knowing the fertility of Travancore, these feudal forces used to plunder the Kanyakumari District through Aralvaimozhi pass and ravaged the country.

The Travancore lines were built of stones cut from the sand rocks which are found on the shores of Kanyakumari Kovalam. An area measuring about 300 + m along the coast x 30 m inland, has rock exposures near the mouth of a stream in the southwestern side of Kovalam village. The exposure includes a flat surface levelled by the stone block. In some areas, the stone blocks have been cut in the shape of bricks for a stretch. The chisel marks are seen at many places. The cut blocks give a false appearance of stone structure. Each and every block is marked in situ and then they are carved and lifted.

Researchers say that they had built the South Travancore Lines with the brick like rocks carved and cut from the calcareous sand stones. The fortification wall is a heritage structure that needs to be preserved. Because of soil erosion, wave action and growth of

bushes the structure is getting damaged day by day. The Government needs to preserve the fortification wall and create a heritage walkway nearby, so that tourists and heritage enthusiasts can visit and experience.

INTACH Nagercoil Chapter visited the Kanyakumari Kovalam village and had a first-hand experience at the site of sand rocks from where rocks were cut in the shape of bricks.

## 2. Kanyakumari Government Museum on 6.9.2025

Kanyakumari is a renowned tourist destination attracting International tourists and pilgrims all over India due to the geographical phenomenon of the confluence of three seas - the Indian Ocean, the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea. It is the southernmost tip of the contiguous Indian subcontinent and the southernmost city in mainland India, and thus it is informally referred to as "The Land's End". In addition to add the beauty of this place Kanniyakumari district, a museum was established on 30 January 1991 by Tamil Nadu State Government. This Government museum of Kanniyakumari is a multi-type object museum which contains many exhibits which showcases on various fields like Archeology, Anthropology, History, Numismatics, Zoology, Geology, Botany, Children section and Local history etc.

### Some Important Collections

#### Archeology, Anthropology & History

- Paleolithic, Microlithic & Neolithic stone tools
- Original Wooden Temple car of Swamiththoppu temple and Wood carvings.
- Kani Tribes - objects
- Travancore - Kings & family photos & paintings
- Iron Cannon & Cannon balls ( many cannon balls were given by INTACH, Nagercoil Chapter which were collected from the remnants of forts of Kanyakumari District .

#### Numismatics

- British coins
- Travancore Kingdom coins
- Indian coins

#### Geology

- Rock and Minerals
- Rare Earth's Sands

#### Zoology & Botany

- Stuffed Birds & Animals
- Wet land birds preserved - marine animals
- Whale bones
- Sample Wooden pieces

#### Local History

- Household objects of Nanjil-Nadu (old name of Kanniyakumari region)
- Photos of Kanniyakumari district - Historical & tourist places, Beaches, and Religious centers etc.

We the members of INTACH, Nagercoil Chapter visited the museum and had given our suggestions for improvement.

### 3. Guhanatheeswarar Temple, Kanyakumari on 6.9.2025

Members of INTACH Nagercoil Chapter under the leadership of Convener Anitha Natarajan and members Dr.Arunachalam, Mrs.Prema Arunachalam, Mr.Chenthee Natarajan, Mr.Faizal, Mr.G.Nagendran, Mrs.Latha Ramaswamy, Mrs.Nageswari Janarthanan, Mrs.Lalith Lakxmi, Mrs.Sudhamathy, Mrs.N.Neela Bai visited the Temple on 6.9.2025, Our member Chenthee Natarajan who is an epigraphist and iconographic explained about the archaeological, historical and social importance of the temple.

The Arulmigu Guhanatheeswarar Temple in Kanyakumari is a prominent ancient Shiva temple located near the Kanyakumari Railway Station and is a significant place of worship for its long history, with some sources suggesting it is over 1,000 years old. It is dedicated to Lord Shiva, the presiding deity.

#### HISTORY AND INSCRIPTIONS

As per the inscriptions, this place was called Gangaikonda Chozhapuram, Rajarajavalanattu Purathayanattu Kumarimangalam, Rajaraja Pandyanattu Uthama Chozha Valanattu Purathayanattu Kumara, Kazhikudi, Kumari Mangalam, Kumariyam Perundurai, etc. Shiva was called Rajeswaramudayar and Konereeswarar.

Based on the inscriptions, the temple belongs to the 10th to 11th centuries. The recorded inscriptions belong to Rajarajan, Rajendra Chozha I, II, Rajathi Rajan, etc.

Rajendra-II's 55th reign year, 1057 CE inscription on the south wall records the endowment of burning a perpetual lamp by Viranilai Vellalan Appi Achanaisaththi and his mother Vettichenthil, and the gift of 25 sheep/ ewes.

Rajendra Chozha-I's 14th reign year inscription on the south wall of kumudam records the endowment of burning a perpetual lamp by Chozhakulavalli, the cook of the King, and 50 sheep/ewes.

Rajendra Chozha-I's 30th reign year inscription on the unnazhigai's south wall records the endowment of burning a perpetual lamp by Vellatty Appi.

An 11th-century inscription on the Unnazhigai's south wall records the gift of 25 sheep/ewes by Bhattan Gunavan.

The 11th-century inscription on the unnazhigai west wall records the establishment of "Thanneer Pandal", the Chozha king's Minister Ayyanambi.

The Chozha king Rajaraja-II's 31st reign year inscription on the unnazhigai west wall records the sale of land to Thevakanmis Narpathonnaayiravar.

The 11th-century inscription on the Unnazhigai west side wall records that a Thanneer Pandal was established by Velaiyyan alias Mangalakalaman, for the same 10 nazhi paddy given as a gift.

Rajathirajan-I's inscription on the north wall of ardha mandapam records the gift to the Rajarajan Salai on the south side of the Vedhiyasathan Temple.

Rajendra Chozha-I's 28th reign year, 1042 CE, inscription on the west wall and north wall records the endowment of burning a perpetual lamp and the gift of 50 sheep/ ewes.

The Rajendra Chozha-I's 28th reign year inscription on the south wall of antarala records the endowment of burning a lamp by Vellalan Appi Pnnandi for and on behalf of his brother and the 25 sheep/ ewes given as a gift.

#### 4. Shrine of Our Lady of Ransom Church, Kanyakumari on 6.9.2025 Our lady of Ransom Church

##### History of Kanyakumari Parish

Kanyakumari village is situated in the District of Kanyakumari which is the southern most part of the Indian subcontinent. The Kanyakumari Parish almost coincides with the civil village of Kanyakumari. It is closely associated with the mainstream Catholic faith in India.

There were archaeological evidences suggesting that St. Thomas, one of the twelve disciples of Jesus Christ visited this soil. The tomb stones unearthed at Kumari Muttom, near Kanyakumari contain evidences to show that Catholics were living there for many centuries. The tomb stones dated 1496 contain the edict of the local ruler granting tax exemptions to the residents of Kumari Muttom and authorizing levy of a cess from the fishermen in Kumari Muttom. The aggregate income thus generated had to be used to keep the lights of the church burning.

The second inscription dated 1526 AD reads "on the twentieth day of the month of Panguni , king Siraval Muttambiranar was pleased to order Muttakangan and Illayakangan and others among the subjects living at the place of Muttom - "we having been pleased to put a stop to riots, quarrels, injustice, tyranny, blackmail and confiscations of fish, they shall here after live here as in an asylum for the oppressed".

In 1542 when St. Francis Xavier came to Cape Comorin (Kanyakumari) he was delighted to find 'Our Lady of Delights Grotto', at Kanyakumari. Then it became a centre for mission activities of the Jesuits from Thoothoor to Ramanathapuram. It is believed that Our Lady of Delights Grotto, in which St. Francis Xavier worshiped, later became the church of Our Lady of Ransom. Our Lady of Ransom is the Patron of the congregation in Spain which redeemed the Christians from the Muslim invasion in the year 1218. The people of Kanyakumari were delighted to combine the name Ransom with Delight and call their patron as Alangara Upakara Matha. The wooden altar elegantly depicts the artistic Roman Art. This church remains part and parcel of the new church. The foundation stone for the new church was laid on 31st May 1900 by Rev. Fr. John Consolvez. Mr. Pakiam Pillai of the Vadakkankulam was the architect of the new church. It is the model of ancient Gothic Art and culture. The length of the new Church is 153 feet, breath 53 feet and height 153 feet. All these depict the beads of the Holy Rosary.

The local catholic church at Kanyakumari is growing day by day in the love of Christ and ever pray for the blessings of our Lord Jesus Christ through the interceding of Alangara Upakara Matha.

History of the Flag Mast: In 1917 a foreign merchant ship got struck to the sand shore of Leepuram, Kanyakumari. The strenuous efforts of the crew and other experts to restore it did not help them. Hence they decided to abandon the ship and went in for an auction. One Mr. Kayathan Villavarayan a merchant from Tuticorin paid the highest bid and assumed the ownership of the abandoned ship. He had donated the iron mast to Our Lady of Ransom Church, Kanyakumari. The kattumarams of Kanyakumari were brought to Leepuram to take the mast to Kanyakumari. It is said that as soon as the mast was loaded on the kattumarams, the mast together with the kattaumarams sunk into the sea water. After a few minutes, the kattumarams and the mast began to float. The bye

standers were astonished to see the grace of Our Lady of Ransom. Then they took the mast to Kanyakumari by road.

When the mast was taken to the church yard, another major difficulty was faced regarding the erection of the mast. They consulted the experts and engineers and came to the decision of inserting it into a hole cut out of a large stone. The stone cutters were approached and they searched for such a huge stone that could serve this particular purpose. In spite of rigorous search, they could not find out any suitable stone. It is believed that Our Lady of Ransom appeared to a stone cutter in dream and indicated the location of a suitable stone. The stone cutter accompanied by the people of Kanyakumari reached the location indicated and they were surprised to see a big stone, befitting the purpose.

They took the stone, made a bore hole and inserted the mast into it. To make the fitting more concrete and long lasting, they poured melted led and erected the mast.



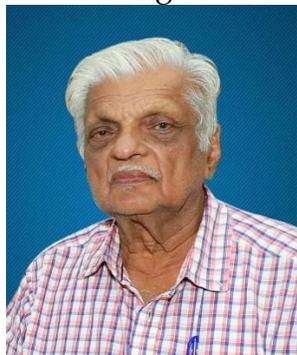
*Kanyakumari Government Museum – Nagercoil Chapter*



*Visit Guhanatheeswarar Temple, Kanyakimari – Nagercoil Chapter*

5. Dr. S. Padmanabhan with his home town at Nagercoil in Tamil Nadu was born at Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala on 31st March 1934. He graduated from the University of Travancore in 1956 and entered Bank service in 1957. He retired from State Bank of India in 1988. Dr. S. Padmanabhan had carved a reputation for himself by his study of Temple Architecture in South India. He was a well-known broadcaster and producer of special features of Temples for All India Radio and T.V. He participated and presented Research papers on Religion, History, Culture and Tamil studies in several International Conferences held in India and abroad. He was considered an authority on the history of Kanyakumari District. His Research book on the 'History of Kanyakumari District' was released in 1990 by the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. Kalaingar. He passed away on 7th of November ,2025 at the age of 91.

INTACH , Nagercoil Chapter expressed its condolences to the family members and at the meeting held on 11th of November .



Dr. S. Padmanabhan, Senior Journalist  
(Member of INTACH Nagercoil Chapter)

### Salem

Heritage Quiz 2025 was conducted by Salem Chapter on 28-08-2025. It was conducted in Sri Vidya Mandir School Auditorium. On a Total 102 students participated from 11 schools. Dr. Yuvashri a well-known here on children welfare was invited as chief guest. Registration started at 9.30 AM and the Written round was at 10.30 AM. Valuation of the Quiz paper began at 11 AM and the results were ready by 12PM. In between There was a break of 30 mins for refreshments and then a session for 30 min By Dr. Yuvashri on traditional health practices & welfare.

Identifying Top Scoring 4 teams had to be done with a few rounds of elimination as there were 4 teams in the second position and other possibilities of tie breakers with questions also exhausted. Then 4 teams progressed for the Oral rounds.

With 5 rounds of Oral questions teams 2 & 3 scored 35 points each and it again ended in a tie. So, a rapid-fire round was done to break the tie and one team emerged victorious and qualified for the state rounds.

The winning team is 1. R. Raja Murugan, 2. Y. Vinith from Sri Vidhya Bharathi M.H. S.S Salem.

Mementos for Chief guest, participating Schools, winners, runners & finalists were given.



*Heritage Quiz 2025 - Salem Chapter*

Telangana

Ranga Reddy

A New Chapter for Telangana's Heritage

Inauguration of the INTACH Ranga Reddy District Chapter

16 November 2025 | JBR Architecture College, Moinabad, Ranga Reddy District

*The formal launch of INTACH's 242nd chapter marks a milestone in strengthening grassroots heritage stewardship in Telangana.*

**Preserving the Past, Inspiring the Future**

The serene campus of **JBR Architecture College, Moinabad**, came alive on 16 November 2025 as INTACH formally

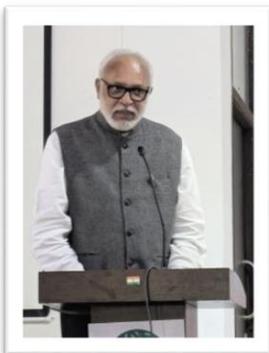
inaugurated the **Ranga Reddy District Chapter**, adding yet another vibrant node to its expanding national network. The theme, "*Preserving the Past, Inspiring the Future*," resonated throughout the ceremony, which gathered Members, scholars, students, heritage custodians, and community leaders. **The Chairman's Vision: Youth as Custodians of Heritage**



The inauguration was graced by **Shri Ashok Singh Thakur**, Chairman, INTACH, who delivered a keynote that blended scholarship with foresight. He emphasised that heritage is not only about monuments and manuscripts but also about **people who carry stories forward**.

Highlighting numismatics as a vital key to unlock layers of India's past, Shri Thakur illustrated how coins chronicle shifts in culture, economy, trade, political authority, and daily life.

With the addition of the Ranga Reddy chapter, INTACH now proudly stands at 242 chapters nationwide, each working toward conserving India's diverse heritage.



**Regional Leadership and National Connectivity** The event was presided over by Er. Veda Kumar Manikonda, Former Governing Council Member, INTACH, who underscored the need for stronger collaborative projects linking Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, regions that share intertwined cultural histories.

A defining moment of the morning was the formal handing over of the Telangana State Convener appointment letter to Shri Sajjad Shahid, a distinguished heritage advocate.

This symbolic gesture reaffirmed INTACH's commitment to building a strong heritage ecosystem in the state.

#### The Deccan Narrative: A Heritage Continuum

Shri Sajjad Shahid, in his special address, offered a compelling narrative of the Deccan's interconnected heritage arc. He drew attention to the cultural threads linking Ranga Reddy to historic port towns like Machilipatnam, reminding the audience that heritage flows beyond administrative boundaries, carried by trade, faith, memory, and craftsmanship.

#### Institutional Partnerships: Heritage in Education

Representing the government, Prof. Arjun Rao Kuthadi, Director, Department of Archaeology, Heritage & Museums, Telangana, reiterated the department's readiness to collaborate with schools and colleges.

He spoke of MOUs, capacity-building workshops, and the urgent need for youth engagement in conservation.

Dr. Mangari Rajender, Former Director, Telangana State Judicial Academy, invoked India's age-old tradition of storytelling.

He reminded the gathering that every site – whether temple, tank, stepwell, or fort – is a story encoded in stone, waiting for the next generation to decode and retell.

#### **A Blueprint for Action: Ranga Reddy's One-Year Plan**



Launching the chapter's roadmap, Prof. Ar. J. Gayatri, Convener of the INTACH Ranga Reddy District Chapter, presented a well-structured one-year action plan aimed at:

Documenting built, natural, and archaeological heritage  
Establishing Heritage Clubs in local schools and colleges

Conducting heritage walks, lectures, and craft interactions

Developing a digital heritage repository

Publishing a bilingual newsletter to chronicle ongoing initiatives  
Engaging youth in hands-on conservation awareness

#### Inauguration of Architectural Documentation Exhibition

- As part of the ceremony, Shri Ashok Singh Thakur inaugurated a special architectural documentation exhibition prepared by the students of JBR Architecture College.



The exhibition showcased detailed documentation and visual studies of significant heritage sites, including:

- Naggar Village
- Sri Vaikunta Perumal Temple, Kanchipuram
- Gandikota Fort
- Sohrai and Khovar Tribal Art, Jharkhand

- Terracotta Temples of West Bengal



- Chettinad Houses, Tamil Nadu
- The exhibition reflected the students' commitment to understanding and preserving India's diverse architectural and cultural traditions.

### Closing Moments

The ceremony concluded with a warm vote of thanks by Prof. Ar. G. Sunil Kumar, Co-Convener, INTACH Ranga Reddy Chapter, who acknowledged the dedication of faculty, students, volunteers, and the INTACH community whose contributions shaped a memorable inaugural day.

### Warangal

INTACH - WARANGAL CHAPTER

ACTIVITY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD August 2025 - November 2025

The following activities were conducted by Warangal Chapter during August 2025 - November 2025

A field visit was organised to the graduate students to Jakaram temples (which are under dilapidated condition), Ramappa and Thousand Pillar Temple on 10.07.2025. Prof Deva Pratap, Co-convener explained them about the construction technology and methods adopted by the Kakatiya rulers in constructing these monuments and irrigation tanks and their contributions to this region.

Organized INTACH National Heritage Quiz 2025 on Indian Culture and Heritage at on 13th August 2025. Members of Warangal Chapter addressed the students. After address the quiz program was conducted to the high school students of this region. 120 students (sixty teams) along with the teachers from Masterji High School, Gurukul, Vikas High

School, Thushara High School, Raman School, Adarsha High School of Hanamkonda City attended the program. Students from Masterji High School are winners in the program.

INTACH Warangal Chapter sponsored and actively associated with the World Heritage Volunteer Camp 2025, which was organised by Kakatiya Heritage Trust, Warangal at Ramappa during October 08 - 17, 2025. World Heritage Centre (WHC, Paris approved the proposal to conduct World Heritage Volunteer Camp 2025 at UNESCO inscribed World Heritage Monument Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple, Palampet, Mulug District. Prof M. Pandu Ranga Rao, and Mr. J. Sridhar Rao are the coordinators of the camp. A total number of 39 volunteers (36 from 12 states of our country and 3 from Iran) belonging to Architecture, Civil Engineering, Tourism, History, Archaeology and Geology have participated. All the volunteers have reported on 08th October 2025 and were lodged in the cottages of Ramappa lake adjoining the Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple site. The camp was inaugurated by Chief Guest Sri B.V. Papa Rao, IAS Retd.), Trustee, Kakatiya Heritage Trust and Prof M. Pandu Ranga Rao, Convener, Warangal Chapter and Trustee Kakatiya Heritage Trust presided over the function. Sri J. Sridhar Rao, convener, HEC, Warangal Chapter and Trustee, Kakatiya Heritage Trust, officials from State Tourism Department, High School Head Master and local citizens participated in the program. All the dignitaries addressed the volunteers about the importance of conservation and preservation of ancient monuments.

Regular programmes to the volunteers commenced with yoga from 6.30AM to 7.30AM on all days followed by three lecture cum demonstrations by experts through Power Point Presentations in the fore noon. Afternoon session was devoted to the field work and visit to various important Kakatiya Monuments. Presentations by volunteers were organised on alternative days pertaining to the previous day field work. In the evening they have participated in the capacity building activities, local cultural activities and cleaning of the monuments. The volunteers were exposed to natural heritage, tangible and intangible sites in the vicinity of World Heritage Property. Members of INTACH, Faculty members from National Institute of Technology, Warangal, Kakatiya University and officials from ASI, Department of Heritage Telangana, ICOMOS gave lectures on renovation and restoration activities of Kakatiya monuments, construction technology and Material selection, methods used for the restoration of the monuments, characterisation and development of sustainable mortars for repair of heritage structures, Civil engineering aspects, irrigation technologies adopted by kakatias, documentation of heritage structures. Smt. Dr. D. Anasuya Seethakka, Hon'ble Minister for Panchayat Raj & Rural Development (including Rural Water Supply), Women & Child Welfare, Government of Telangana addressed the volunteers on 15.10.2025 about the contributions made by kakatias to this region. Prof. Y. L. Srinivas, Vice-Chancellor, Sammakka Sarakka Central Tribal University addressed the volunteers about the importance of conservation and preservation of ancient monuments.

The ten day volunteer program has helped enriching their educational acumen in different disciplines. They have also acquired additional skills in renovation, restoration and preservation of heritage monuments. The morning yoga practice every day has helped them to improve their physical, mental and spiritual activities. As the participants are from different parts of India a sense of unity and togetherness has been created and

shaped themselves as good heritage volunteers. The World Heritage Volunteers (WHV)-2025 at Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple has been successfully completed enhancing technical and interpersonal skills resulting in improved heritage education and committed youth volunteers for the nation building.

On 18th October 2025, WHV Camp 2022 valedictory function was conducted at Ramappa Temple. Chief Guest Sri M. Ratan, IPS (Retired), Former DGP, combined state of Andhra Pradesh addressed the volunteers on role of people participation in conservation of our heritage and monuments. Prof M. Pandu Ranga Rao, Convener, Warangal Chapter and Trustee Kakatiya Heritage Trust presided over the function and expressed his happiness on the successful completion of the camp. The chief guest distributed the participant certificates and mementos to all the volunteers.



*World Heritage Volunteer Camp 2025 – Warangal Chapter*

### **Tripura**

INTACH Tripura chapter conducted some major activities between June - august 2025 are:

1. Sapling Plantation Programme on the occasion of World Environment Day, 5th June 2025, in collaboration with the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council, Khumulwng.
2. A study tour with our research scholars to pillak famous Hindu cum Buddhist site dating back to 8-12th century. The museum authority was helpful and allowed us to inspect the terracotta sculptors and take photographs. This will be used in a pictorial book we are planning to bring out on archeological sites of Tripura.
3. The 117th Birth Anniversary of Maharaja Bir Bikram Manikya Bahadur was celebrated on 18th August 2025. On this occasion, a Special Postal Cover was released by the Post Master General (N.E.-1 Region), Shri Joseph Lalrinsailova, in the presence of the Royal Family of Tripura and other dignitaries.

A two-day Photo Exhibition was also organised, displaying rare photographs , the military uniform of Maharaja Bir Bikram and some weapons and armours used during medieval period by Manikya Dynasty Kings .

During the programme, three eminent personalities were felicitated with a memento and financial token. A souvenir stall was opened with items like commemorative T-shirts. On the same day, Boyar, a member of INTACH, released a book to mark the occasion.



*Celebrated Birth Anniversary of Maharaja Bir Bikram Manikya Bahadur was celebrated on 18th August 2025 – Tripura Chapter*

4. The world of stamps and postal history came alive in Tripura with the inauguration of the Circle Level Philately Exhibition, TRIPEX-2025, held at the renowned Nazrul Kalakchetra, Agartala on 29.10.2025. The philately exhibition was inaugurated by the Maharaj Kumari Pragya Debbarman, Convener, INTACH Tripura Chapter. The event was organized aimed to promote the "King of Hobbies" and showcase the rich heritage and culture depicted on postage stamps. TRIPEX-2025 firmly established itself as a crucial platform for preserving and promoting the educational and historical value of stamp collecting in the region.



*Inauguration of the Circle Level Philately Exhibition, TRIPEX-2025 – Tripura Chapter*

## **Uttar Pradesh**

### **Ayodhya**

Date: August 24, 2025

Location: JB Academy, Faizabad, Dist. – Ayodhya

#### **Introduction**

The Ayodhya Chapter of INTACH (Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage) organized the INTACH Heritage Quiz at JB Academy in Faizabad on August 24, 2025. The event was organized under the guidance of Ms. Anuja Srivastava.

#### **Participation**

A total of 150 students from 15 different schools namely JB Academy, Yash Vidya Mandir, Takshila Academy, Udaya Public School, JNV, Army Public, Sunbeam School, MR Jaipuria, KT Public School, Faizabad Public School, Indrapuram Public School, Avadh International School, Bhavadiya Public School, Innovative Minds Academy, and Lushkory Preparatory School enthusiastically participated in the quiz.. Many of these

schools are also institutional members of They were divided into 75 teams for the competition. The schools started to report from 9:00 am onwards.

### Event Highlights

- Dr. Indroneel Banerjee, Co-Convener of the Ayodhya Chapter was the quiz master for the day. Chapter members acted as invigilators in all the classrooms during the written round.
- The written round commenced at 10:00 a.m.
- In the written round, Army Public school secured the first position, with JB Academy coming in second place, Sunbeam and Avadh International school securing the third and fourth positions, respectively.

### Oral Round

Chapter Convener, Mrs. Manjula Jhunjunwala, welcomed the guests, participants, and teachers-in-charge. She said that unless our students become aware and sensitive towards all forms of heritage – cultural, spiritual, mythological, literary, tangible, and intangible – at both regional and national levels, the mission of heritage preservation cannot be fulfilled. She also informed that the participants who qualified at the chapter level will now compete in the state-level round, and later, at the national level of the Heritage Quiz. Winners:

- Army Public School emerged as the winner of the quiz.
- Avadh International was the runner-up.
- JB Academy and Sunbeam School received consolation prizes for their efforts.

Trophies, certificates, and books were presented to the winning and runner-up teams. Consolation prize winners received certificates. All other participants received certificates for their participation.

Ms. Anahita Koshur, an active member of the chapter, concluded the event with a vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all participants, schools, and the quiz master. The day ended with a formal lunch for the guests and INTACH members, fostering camaraderie and collaboration in the pursuit of heritage preservation and awareness.



*INTACH Heritage Quiz at JB Academy – Ayodhya Chapter*

2. A two-day workshop on Our Living Heritage: The Endangered Chatoliya Art, organized under the banner of INTACH, HECS (Heritage Education and Communication

Services) in collaboration with INTACH Ayodhya Chapter, was successfully conducted at the JB Academy Multipurpose hall on 18th and 20th August 2025.

The workshop focused on reviving the fading craft tradition of Chatoliya, particularly the art of making Kathari. Participants were trained in this unique skill, which represents an ancient craft of creating Chatoliya from worn-out clothes.

Mrs. Sudha Mishra, speaker for the event, highlighted that this traditional art form is not only eco-friendly—since it involves recycling old fabric—but also practical, as the Chatoliya is lighter than modern mattresses and easier to clean. She emphasized the importance of reviving this endangered craft and sensitizing students towards its value. In this experiential workshop, resource person Mrs. Kusum Pandey provided meticulous training to the participants. A total of 77 students from JB Academy, Yash Vidya Mandir, Bhavdiya Public School, Udaya Public School, and Takshila Academy took part in the event.

On the concluding day, an exhibition showcasing the Chatoliya created by the students was organized, followed by the distribution of certificates to all participants.



*A two-day workshop on Our Living Heritage: The Endangered Chatoliya Art – Ayodhya Chapter*

### 3. Jain Heritage Walk – Detailed Report

Date: 9 November 2025 Location: Ayodhya

The Jain Heritage Walk was successfully organized on the morning of 9 November 2025. Participants were requested to assemble by 7:30 AM, and arrivals began on time. A total of 50 participants joined the heritage walk with great enthusiasm. All participants were welcomed, and a brief overview of the walk, its objectives, and the key heritage sites to be covered was provided before starting.

During the walk, participants explored the rich Jain heritage of Ayodhya. They visited the sacred sites associated with the five Jain Tirthankaras who were born in Ayodhya. At each site, detailed information regarding history, architecture, religious significance, and major events related to the Tirthankaras was shared by the guide. Participants were given

peaceful, organized darshan at each temple and were provided with complete explanatory details.

The walk included the darshan of the following Tirthankaras:

1. Lord Rishabhdev (Adinath)
2. Lord Ajitnath
3. Lord Abhinandannath
4. Lord Sumatinath
5. Lord Anantnath

The heritage walk concluded at the Dwarkadhish Temple at 9:30 AM. A final briefing, closing note, and thanks were delivered to the participants. Information regarding future programs and heritage activities was also shared. After the walk concluded, refreshments were served to all participants. Following the local refreshments, the event came to a pleasant close, and participants departed with satisfaction and positive feedback.

The Jain Heritage Walk was highly successful. With smooth coordination, detailed explanations at each heritage point, and well-managed darshan, the event became memorable for everyone involved. The participants' feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and many encouraged organizing such cultural and spiritual walks regularly in the future.



*Jain Heritage Walk – Ayodhya Chapter*

#### 4. A Unique Presentation of the Puppet Play "Mohan Se Mahatma" Ayodhya

September 28, 2025

Under the joint auspices of INTACH Ayodhya Chapter and Yash Paka Limited, social worker and renowned artist Mithilesh Dubey and his colleagues presented a grand performance of the puppet play "Mohan Se Mahatma," based on Gandhi's life, in the JBA auditorium.

Through the art of puppetry, which is disappearing from society, the artists depicted Mahatma Gandhi's journey from an ordinary man to the Father of the Nation.

This included Gandhi's early life, the transformation in South Africa, the Champaran incident, and his journey from "Gandhi" to "Mahatma" through his commitment and non-violent struggle based on truth. This journey reflected his transformation from an ordinary man to a spiritual leader and then to the Father of the Nation.

Program in-charge and JBA Principal VK Joshi explained that under the guidance of Manjula Jhunjhunwala, Convener, INTACH Ayodhya Chapter, such programs are organized on the last Sunday of every month as part of the Awadh Kala Utsav to preserve our cultural heritage. This puppet play is a special event. Its purpose is not only to introduce today's young generation to puppetry but also to inspire them with Gandhi's great personality. This unique presentation will undoubtedly instill in students such values of determination, human values, consistency in words and actions, and participation in building a value-based society.

This wonderful presentation by Creative Puppet Theatre Trust Varanasi was heartily appreciated by the audience. Present on this occasion were all INTACH members, principals of schools with institutional membership, teachers, students, parents, Heritage Club members, and other dignitaries from the city.

### **Gorakhpur**

1. As per instructions of head quarter GORAKHPUR city round of heritage quiz was carried out on 24 th august 2025.The venue was MAHATAMA GANDHI INTER COLLEGE GORAKHPUR.

92 students of 9 schools participated in the event. Meeting was started by welcome adress of achintya lahiri co-convener. Dr.Ravindra Anand head of department of history,St Andrews post graduate College was invited to give adress to students on heritage. Sri Anand in his impressive lecture told students about heritage and its importance,difference between tangible and intangible heritage. He said that our country is an example of shouldunity in diversity and we have lot of cultures which has been transferred from generation to generation ang younger generation should come forward to protect.

After the lecture written round was conducted between 45 teams. Our of 45 teams 4 top teams were of following schools

- 1 H P children's academy civil lines Gorakhpur
2. Ratna memorial public school Gorakhpur
3. Ratna memorial public school Gorakhpur
- 4.H.P.Children's academy civil lines Gorakhpur

To decide the winners oral round was conducted. The team of H.P. Children academy was declared winners.

Lot of members of intach.teachers of school,guardian of children were present and they appreciated the way in which awareness about heritage being done by Intach.



*City Round of Heritage Quiz - Gorakhpur Chapter*

2. INTACH conservation institute Lucknow and INTACH Gorakhpur chapter jointly organised a document conservation workshop on 20 th September 2025.

The venue was home science department Deen Dayal upadhyaya gorakhpur university. Intach Gorakhpur chapter in this workshop called the librarians of all major universities, all old colleges, nagar nigam to take advantage of this workshop, and every body participated in it

Mr Dharmendra Mishra director of ICI lucknow elaborated the type of defects that may occur in documents, their reasons and remedial measure to be required for removing the defects. Beside librarians Intach members, PhD students also participated.

Every participant especially the librarian said that the workshop was much beneficial and will help them in maintaining the books of their libraries. In the last an documentary on Intach was shown to audiences.

Convener M.P.Kandoi thanked all for making this workshop successful.

## **Jhansi**

Minutes of the INTACH Jhansi Chapter Meeting held on 02.08.25

1. The meeting commenced with a warm welcome to all members.
2. Central Executive Member Mr. Neelkamal Maheshwari was felicitated with a garland by the newly appointed Convener of INTACH Jhansi Chapter, Mr. Rajendra Kumar Rai.
3. All members briefly introduced themselves.
4. Convener Mr. Rajendra Kumar Rai shared his vision for the upcoming work plan of INTACH and invited suggestions from members regarding future activities of the Chapter.
5. Mr. Alakh Prakash Sahu presented information about the fort located near the pond in Bijauli, highlighted its neglected condition, and suggested that INTACH take steps to maintain it.
6. Mrs. Sunita Shivhare raised concerns about the deteriorating condition of ancient window gates such as Ali Gol Khidki and Sainir Darwaza, which are significant historical structures in Jhansi, also known as the "City of Window Gates." She offered suggestions for their preservation and restoration.
7. Mr. Ajay Sijaria suggested preserving such historical heritage sites.

8. Mr. Neelkamal Maheshwari shared information about various projects and initiatives being undertaken by INTACH under the leadership of the newly appointed Chairman Mr. Ashok Singh Thakur. He suggested identifying a monument in Jhansi for adoption under the "Adopt a Monument" initiative, to be maintained and beautified by the Jhansi Chapter. He further suggested organising an exhibition showcasing INTACH's work over the last 40 years.

9. Convener Mr. Rajendra Rai announced the formation of the Executive Committee, whose term will conclude at the end of this year. The nominated members are:

- o Mr. Pradeep Mukherjee
- o Mr. Dinesh Srivastava
- o Mr. Ajay 'Sijaria'
- o Mr. Pradeep Tiwari
- o Mrs. Sunita Shivhare

A PR & Media Cell of INTACH Jhansi Chapter was also constituted, with the following nominated members:

- o Dr. Shri Man Mohan Manu
- o Mr. Sudarshan Shivhare

10. A two-minute silence was observed in memory of the deceased members of the INTACH Jhansi Chapter.

11. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to all present. The proceedings were conducted by Mr. Sushil Abwal.

## 2. INTACH National Heritage Quiz Contest Concludes in Jhansi "Children Test Their Understanding of Heritage"

Jhansi, 8 October.

The INTACH National Heritage Quiz Contest was successfully held at the State Museum under the auspices of INTACH Jhansi Chapter.

As directed by National President Mr. Ashok Singh Thakur, all participants were presented with certificates and gifts. On this occasion, National Executive Member Neelkamal Maheshwari expressed his gratitude to all the schools and announced that the winning team would be invited to Lucknow for the next round. If successful, they would have the opportunity to participate in the national-level competition in Delhi, with all expenses fully covered by INTACH.

Guests at the event included Dr. Sameer Dewan, Superintendent, Archaeological Survey of India, Jhansi Division; Dr. Manoj Kumar Gautam, Deputy Director, State Museum; Dr. Nitish Saxena; Dr. Pradeep Tiwari provided informative information to the participants on archaeology, tourism, heritage conservation, and Bundeli art and culture.

INTACH Jhansi Chapter Convener RK Rai announced the winning teams. The program was successfully conducted by Dr. Manmohan Manu.

Students from Cathedral College won the first prize, Rani Lakshmbai Public School won the second prize, and Blue Bells Public School won the third prize.

Conveners Sushil Agarwal, Dr. Sudarshan Shivhare, Dinesh Srivastava, Sunita Shivhare, and teachers were present during the program.



### *INTACH Jhansi Chapter Meeting – Jhansi Chapter*



### *National Heritage Quiz Contest – Jhansi Chapter*

#### **Lalitpur**

The Heritage Quiz 2025 City Round, organized by the INTACH Lalitpur Chapter, concluded at the Government Girls Inter College Auditorium. A total of 92 students from nine schools participated. Among the four teams selected for the oral round, the team of Srishti Singh and Bhavya Pathak from PM Shri Kendriya Vidyalaya secured first place. The event's Chief Guest was GGIC Principal Anjana Verma. Also present were INTACH Convener, Santosh Kumar Sharma, Program Coordinator and renowned artist O.P. Birthare, Prerna Sharma, Nupur Srivastava, Rohit Tiwari, and numerous students and teachers. INTACH Co-Convener Rajneesh Chadha expressed gratitude to all attendees.



### *The Heritage Quiz 2025 City Round – Lalitpur Chapter*

#### **Lucknow**

## 1. Heritage Walk through Kaiserbagh: INTACH Lucknow Chapter Hosts Educators from Vasant Valley School, New Delhi

On April 10, 2025, the INTACH Lucknow Chapter curated a heritage walk for 70 educators from Vasant Valley School, New Delhi, offering an immersive exploration of



the Kaiserbagh Heritage Complex and the rich legacy of Nawabi Lucknow.

The walk began at Chhatar Manzil and continued through lesser-known gems such as Kothi Farhat Baksh, Jarnail Kothi, Gulistan-e-Iram, Darshan Vilas, and Kasr-ul-Sultan. Participants also visited the tombs of Nawab Saadat Ali Khan and Khurshid Zaadi, before passing through Neil Gate and Gol Darwaza into the zenana quarters. The journey concluded at the iconic Safed Baradari.

Infused with storytelling and historical interpretation, the walk brought to life Lucknow's Ganga-Jamuni Tehzeeb, fostering a deeper appreciation for heritage and its relevance in education.

## 2. INTACH Lucknow Chapter Hosts Heritage Walk for Khun Khunji Girls' PG College on World Heritage Day

To mark World Heritage Day, the Lucknow Chapter of INTACH organized a heritage



walk for undergraduate students of Khun Khunji Girls' PG College. The walk was led by Shashank from Lucknow Heritage Junction, and accompanied by Dr. Neetu Agarwal, Convener of the INTACH Lucknow Chapter; Dr. Parul Singh, INTACH Member; and Dr. Vijeta Dixit, Assistant Professor of History at Khun Khunji Girls' PG College.

The participants explored the historic Kaiserbagh Heritage Complex, beginning at Chhatar Manzil and culminating at Safed

Baradari. This immersive journey offered students a firsthand encounter with the architectural splendor of the Nawabs of Awadh, while also tracing key landmarks associated with the 1857 uprising – an epochal moment in India's struggle against colonial rule.

Shashank enriched the experience through engaging anecdotes and vivid storytelling, bringing to life the legacy of the Nawabs and the significance of their architectural landmarks. The walk not only deepened



students' understanding of history but also fostered cultural sensitivity and a profound appreciation for preserving heritage.

### 3. INTACH, Lucknow Chapter launched a bimonthly web talk series

INTACH, Lucknow Chapter launched a bimonthly web talk series titled "Interlacing Histories: Exploring the Heritage of Lucknow" with its first talk by Dr. P.C. Sarkar, Former Principal Scientist, ICAR and a renowned author on Lucknow. Dr. Sarkar spoke on the topic "The Forgotten Heritage of Lucknow: Some Architectural Marvels Lost in Time" on the 10th May, 2025 in a zoom session organised with the help of Chapters Division, INTACH. Dr. Sarkar highlighted the unique hybrid architecture of Lucknow's buildings, which combine French, Islamic, British, and Hindustani influences. Dr. P.C. Sarkar discussed the history and significance of various lost and decaying structures in Lucknow, including Machi Bhavan, Fort Jalalabad, Moti Mahal, Mermaid Gate, Musa Bagh, the Sunehri Burj, Aishbagh, Rennie's Bridge and others. The talk was attended by heritage enthusiasts from diverse fields which included educators, students, film makers, artists, journalists, archaeologists, and museum curators.

Meetings:



4. INTACH, Lucknow Chapter held a quarterly meeting of members on Saturday, 17th May from 4:00 to 5:30 pm. The meeting began by the members introducing themselves. This was followed by the main agenda of planning chapter activities for the quarter from July to September. The meeting was attended by more than 15 members.

### 5. INTACH Lucknow Brings Nawabi Literature Alive at AGDC

Lucknow Chapter organized an engaging panel discussion on "From Palaces to People: Unravelling the Nawabi Literature of Awadh" on 20th September, 2025 at Avadh Girls' Degree College, Lucknow.

The panel featured eminent anthropologist and authority on Awadhi culture, Prof. Nadeem Hasnain and celebrated dastango, Dr. Himanshu Bajpai. Moderated by Kanak Rekha Chauhan, a literary critic, the panel discussion explored Nawabi literature's evolution in Awadh, highlighting its Persian poetic roots, mehfil culture, and rich Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb. Prof. Hasnain emphasized cultural nostalgia as vital for preserving heritage, in the absence of which cultural amnesia takes roots. Dr. Himanshu Bajpai stressed its role in expressing love, loss, and power. Kanak Rekha Chauhan noted the inclusion of music, drama, and Lucknow's unique Urdu poetry traditions. The shift post-1857 saw literature's democratization and adoption by wider communities. The discussion underscored re-engaging with these traditions to sustain Lucknow's composite cultural identity in changing times.

Mr. Ashok Singh Thakur, Chairman, INTACH New Delhi, graced the event as Chief Guest. He emphasized the vital role of heritage in shaping Awadh's identity. He reaffirmed INTACH's commitment to spearheading heritage preservation and cultural education initiatives ensuring that our monuments, traditions, and stories continue to inspire and unite communities across generations.

The discussion drew heritage enthusiasts, scholars, faculty, and students, ending with an interactive Q&A that left the audience inspired to rediscover Awadh's rich literary heritage, sending them home with stories to share – and a deeper connection to their heritage.



*A panel discussion on “From Palaces to People: Unravelling the Nawabi Literature of Awadh” – Lucknow Chapter*

6. INTACH, Lucknow Chapter organized City Final of National Heritage Quiz on 30th August, 2025 at La Martiniere College, Lucknow

The Lucknow Chapter of INTACH (Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage) successfully organized the Lucknow City Round of the INTACH National Heritage Quiz 2025 at La Martiniere College, Lucknow, on 30th August 2025.

The quiz saw enthusiastic participation from 82 contestants (in 41 teams) representing 21 leading schools of the city. The finalist teams were: Ayaan Mahmood and Atharva Chitransh Singh of La Martiniere College; Anmol Gupta and Akshayvar Pandey of City Montessori School, Aliganj - 1; Pulkit Deshwal and Samriddhi Bajpai of Study Hall School; Utkarsh Vishwakarma and Shreyasi Chakraborty of Army Public School, Nehru Road. The second team from La Martiniere College, Lucknow comprising Yasub Ali Raza and Shaashwat Srivastava received an honourable mention.

The city final featured six exciting rounds, with questions dedicated to local, state, and national heritage. After a fiercely contested quiz, the winners were declared and felicitated by the distinguished Chief Guest, Mr. Mukesh Meshram, Principal Secretary, Tourism and Culture, Government of Uttar Pradesh. The prize distribution was also



graced by Mr. Gary Dominic Everett, Principal, La Martiniere College, Lucknow, the quiz masters Ms Surabhi Modi Sahai and Mr Aditya Wakhlu of CLAT Possible, and INTACH members Mr. N.K.S. Chauhan, Prof. Sumna Varshney, Ms. Kanak Rekha Chauhan, Dr. Neetu Agarwal (Convener) and Mr Dhanunjay Varshney (Co-Convener).

The Second prize was awarded to Pulkit Deshwal and Samriddhi Bajpai of Study Hall School, guided by teacher-in-charge, Ms Priya

Kalsi while the first prize went to Utkarsh Vishwakarma and Shreyasi Chakraborty of Army Public School, Nehru Road guided by teacher-in-charge, Ms Babita Rakesh.

## Mahoba

I respectfully wish to inform you that, as usual, the INTACH Mahoba Chapter organized an Alha Singing Competition on August 11, 2025, at the Alha stage of the Kajli Mahotsav fair grounds. The performance was given by Diksha and Pratiksha.

On August 14, 2025, a public lecture was organized at the fair venue for the visitors. INTACH members delivered talks on Indian heritage and its conservation. The programme was attended by INTACH members Shri Shivkumar Goswami, Shri Sharad Tiwari Daou, Ashwani, Avinath, and Agam Agarwal. I also addressed the public on the topic of preserving Indian heritage.

Refreshments were provided to all participating members and artists by the INTACH Mahoba Chapter.

## Meerut

### 1. World Student Day Celebration - 15 October, Meerut

INTACH Meerut Chapter celebrated **World Student Day** with senior students of Shri Ram Sahai Inter College, Meerut. The programme was presided over by **Dr. R.K. Bhatnagar, Senior IAS Officer**. Students delivered inspiring speeches on the life and contributions of **Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam**, in whose honour the day is observed.



Senior INTACH member **Mr. G.C. Sharma** addressed the gathering on the significance of the day for youth empowerment. The programme was conducted by **Mr. A.K. Johri**, Senior Assistant Sugarcane Commissioner and Co-Convener, INTACH Meerut Chapter.

The event was attended by **Mr. Rajneesh Prakash Tyagi** (School Manager), **Mr. Deepak Sharma** (INTACH Member), **Mr. E.A.K. Saxena**, **Mr. Sunil Goyal** (INTACH Member), **Principal Sukh Nandan Tyagi**, along with teachers and students.

## 2. Teachers' Day - Teachers' Honors Program - 6 September, Meerut

INTACH Meerut Chapter organized a **Teachers' Honors Programme** at The Aryans Public School, NH-58, Meerut, to commemorate Teachers' Day. The event was conducted



by **Mr. A.K. Johri**, Co-Convener, INTACH Meerut Chapter, and presided over by **Dr. R.K. Bhatnagar**, Senior Superintendent, Divisional Commissioner/Convener.

Three students, including **Mr. Ashwani Gupta**, expressed their gratitude towards teachers through heartfelt

speeches. Mr. Johri also shared his personal experiences as a student and a mentor. Dr. Bhatnagar conveyed his blessings and extended best wishes to all teachers.

**Mrs. Preeti Malhotra**, Principal, delivered the vote of thanks.

*(Due to the Barawafat school holiday on 5 September 2025, the event was held on 6 September.)*

## 3. Birth Anniversary of Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh - 27 September, Meerut

On the eve of the birth anniversary of **Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh**, INTACH Meerut Chapter held a commemorative programme at the **Veer Banda Bairagi Auditorium**,



History Department, Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut, in collaboration with the university's History students.

The event was graced by **Dr. R.K. Bhatnagar**, **A.D. Tyagi**, **G.C. Sharma**, **Prof. Aradhana Gupta**, **A.K. Goyal**, **Vijay Bhol**, and **Yogesh ji**, who

reflected on Bhagat Singh's life and the revolutionary conditions of his era.

Students **Isha Chaudhary**, **Shivani Dhama**, **Kush Giri Goswami**, **Yavish**, and **Nishant Singh** participated in the symposium.

The programme was moderated by **Mr. A.K. Johri**, Co-Convener, INTACH Meerut Chapter, who introduced INTACH and encouraged students to engage in future events.

**Dr. R.K. Bhatnagar**, Senior IAS (Retd.) and Convener, gave the concluding remarks and blessings.

#### 4. Music Heritage Conservation Programme – 21 September, Meerut

INTACH Meerut Chapter organized a **Music Heritage Conservation Programme** at the Aangn Restaurant Auditorium, Meerut Cantt. Conducted by **Mr. A.K. Johri**, the session



highlighted how Hindustani classical music evolved through Persian and Mughal influences and continues to uphold India's cultural legacy.

Eminent artists were felicitated by **Mr. Vijay Bhola**, noted industrialist, and **Mr. Ashwani Gupta**. The

event was presided over by **Dr. R.K. Bhatnagar, IAS**.

Performers presented ragas, taals, khayals, and ghazals. Prominent contributors included: **A.D. Tyagi, A.K. Goyal, K.P. Pradhan, Sardar M.M. Ahuja, D.P. Shrivastava, Sheel Vardhan Gupta, Deepak Sharma, Kiran Singh, Mr. Dewan, E.A.K. Saxena, A.K. Gandhi, and Mrs. Anupama Bhatnagar**.

#### 5. Munshi Prem Chand Memorial Essay/Story Writing Competition – 13 October, Meerut

The prize distribution ceremony of the **Munshi Prem Chand Memorial Essay/Story Writing Competition** (held in July 2025 at The Aryans Public School, Meerut) was organized jointly by INTACH Meerut Chapter and the All India Kayastha Mahasabha.

Certificates were awarded to all participants, while the first, second, and third prize winners in all categories received mementos.



The programme was graced by **Mr. Harpal Singh** (Director), Senior Inspector and Chief Engineer, and **Mr. Akshay Singh**. Conducted by **Mr. A.K. Johri**, Co-Convenor, INTACH Meerut Chapter, the event was presided over by **Dr. R.K. Bhatnagar**, Senior Inspector, IAS. Senior member **Mr.**

**Sheel Vardhan Gupta** was also present.

Inspirational insights from the life of **Munshi Prem Chand** were shared with the students.

## 6. Discussion on Scientific Basis of Holistic Health – 29 July, Meerut

INTACH Meerut Chapter organized a special discussion on the **scientific basis of holistic health** at Ojas Gyan Kendra, Meerut. **Dr. Rahul Bansal**, senior member of



INTACH, delivered a two-hour lecture focusing on spiritual well-being.

He emphasized that spiritual health strengthens individuals during chronic conditions, improves morale, and enhances quality of life. He showcased examples and key references

including *Life After Life*, *The Biology of Belief*, *The God Equation*, *One Mind*, *First Photo of a Human Soul*, *What Is on the Other Side*, *Recovery from Disease*, and *Prayer and Your SQ* by Lt. Col. (Retd.) A.D. Tyagi.

The programme was attended by **A.K. Johri**, **Dinesh Saxena**, **K.P. Pradhan**, **Sheelvardhan**, **Dr. Kiran Singh**, **R.K. Bhatnagar**, **Lt. Col. A.D. Tyagi**, **Deepak Sharma**, **A.K. Saxena**, **Ashok Garg**, **Pankaj Sharma**, **Alok Bhatnagar**, **Shashi Agarwal**, **Gyanendra Agarwal**, among others.

Conducted by **Mr. A.K. Johri**, Co-Convener, the programme also featured remarks by **Mr. A.K. Gandhi**, Coordinator. **Dr. R.K. Bhatnagar** proposed the vote of thanks.

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## 7. Kargil Martyrs Commemoration Programme – 26 July, Meerut

INTACH Meerut Chapter held a solemn programme to honour the **Kargil martyrs** at Rose Mary Institute, Meerut. Members paid floral tributes and observed a minute of silence in remembrance of the brave soldiers.



**Lt. Col. A.D. Tyagi** shared personal memories of the Kargil War. Chief Guests **Dr. Kiran Singh**, **A.K. Johri**, and **Dr. Ishwar Chand Gambhir** recited poems dedicated to the martyrs.

Presided over by **Dr. R.K. Bhatnagar**, Convener, the event was conducted by **Mr.**

**A.K. Johri**, Co-Convener. An appeal was made to the public to show respect to soldiers in everyday life.

Prominent attendees included **K.P. Pradhan**, **Sheelvardhan**, **Dr. Kiran Singh**, **Lt. Col. (Retd.) A.D. Tyagi**, **Dinesh Talwar**, **Dr. Gambhir**, **Dinesh Saxena**, **Anubhav Luthra**, **A.K. Saxena**, **Bijendra Dhyani**, and others.

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## 8. Essay Competition Prize Distribution - Ismail Girls National Inter College - 29 October, Meerut

As part of INTACH Meerut Chapter's heritage awareness initiative, the **Munshi Premchand Memorial Essay/Story Writing Competition** (held in July 2025) concluded



with a prize distribution ceremony at Ismail Girls National Inter College, Shastri Nagar, Meerut.

The event was organized in collaboration with the **All India Kayastha Mahasabha, Uttar Pradesh (West)**. It was presided over by **Dr. R.K. Bhatnagar, IAS (Retd.)**, Convener, INTACH

Meerut Chapter, and conducted by **Mr. A.K. Johri**, Provincial President, All India Kayastha Mahasabha (UP) and Co-Convener, INTACH Meerut Chapter.

Winners securing first, second, and third positions received mementos and certificates. **Shri A.K. Saxena**, Member, INTACH, and Programme Coordinator, was also present.

The Principal and students were encouraged to join INTACH. The Principal received a copy of **Young INTACH**.

## Prayagraj (Allahabad)

### Curtain Raiser Sets the Stage for INTACH's Annual Heritage Quiz 2025 in Prayagraj Prayagraj, 9 September 2025:

The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) hosted a vibrant Curtain Raiser today at the Auto Sales Building, Prayagraj, ahead of the much-awaited **Annual Heritage Quiz 2025**, scheduled for **12 September 2025**.

Established in 1984, INTACH is India's premier organization dedicated to the conservation and promotion of cultural heritage. With its headquarters in New Delhi and over 250 chapters nationwide, INTACH works to protect monuments, spread heritage awareness, and promote art, architecture, crafts, and traditions. Its Annual Heritage Quiz, launched in 2014, has become one of its flagship programmes to engage young minds across nearly 100 cities through City, State, and National rounds.

The Prayagraj Chapter has been hosting the quiz since 2016. In 2024, the City Level winners were **Ms. Anvita and Anvisha Tiwari** of Patanjali Rishikul School. In 2021, students from Maharishi Patanjali Vidya Mandir represented Prayagraj at the National Round in New Delhi.

This year, the **City Level Quiz** will be held on **12 September 2025** (9:00 AM–12:30 PM) at **Delhi Public School, Naini**, jointly organized by INTACH Prayagraj Chapter and DPS.

A remarkable response of **about 50 teams** from leading CBSE schools has been received, reflecting strong enthusiasm among students to expand their knowledge of India's cultural and historical wealth.

The main event will host several dignitaries from the heritage and education sectors. Experts in conservation will also address the students, motivating them to become young ambassadors of heritage preservation.

The Curtain Raiser successfully set an energetic tone for the upcoming event. With committed organizers and enthusiastic participation, the **INTACH Annual Heritage**

Quiz 2025 promises to be a grand and memorable celebration of heritage learning in Prayagraj.

## 2. FINAL CITY LEVEL QUIZ

Date: 12 September 2025

### INTACH Annual Heritage Quiz 2025 Concludes Successfully in Prayagraj Prayagraj, 12 September 2025:

Delhi Public School, Arail Road, Naini, hosted an engaging and competitive morning as the INTACH Prayagraj Chapter, in collaboration with DPS, successfully conducted the **City Level INTACH Annual Heritage Quiz 2025**. The event highlighted India's cultural wealth while inspiring students to preserve and celebrate heritage.



A total of **58 teams** from CBSE schools participated. After the written elimination round, **10 teams** advanced to the oral and visual stages, which included six rounds featuring written,

oral, visual, and buzzer segments.

#### Winners

- **First Prize:** *Bhavya Pandey & Ansh Yadav*, Patanjali Rishikul School
- **Second Prize:** *Divyanshu Pandey & Arya Mishra*, Maharshi Vidya Mandir
- **Third Prize:** *Aqsa Mehmood & Zunaira Fatima*, LDC Public School



The event began with registrations at 8:15 AM, followed by the inaugural session conducted by **Mr. Ashish Verma**, Venue Coordinator, DPS. A warm welcome by **Mrs. Pooja Gupta** set the tone, followed by introductions of the participants, escorting teachers, Quiz Master **Dr. Divya Bartria**, and Guests of Honour **Colonel Parag Bhargava** and **Dr. Ritu Jaiswal**.

Colonel Parag emphasized the role of children as "torchbearers of tradition," while Dr. Ritu stressed community participation in preserving cultural heritage. A presentation on INTACH's mission by **Mr. Vaibhav Maini** deepened students' understanding of the organization's work.

Judges **Mr. Shambhu Chopra**, **Mr. Anupam Parihar (Co-Convener)**, and **Dr. Ritu Jaiswal** ensured transparent and fair evaluation.

The Vote of Thanks was delivered by **Mrs. Pooja Gupta** and **Mr. Shambhu Chopra**, Convener, INTACH Prayagraj Chapter, acknowledging the cooperation of participating schools, coordinators, volunteers, and DPS management.

With enthusiastic student participation and excellent coordination, the INTACH Annual Heritage Quiz 2025 concluded as an inspiring and educational celebration of India's heritage.

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### 3. INTACH Prayagraj Chapter Report

#### INTACH Prayagraj Chapter: Inspiring Young Minds through Heritage Quiz 2025

The INTACH Prayagraj Chapter successfully organized the **City Level Annual Heritage Quiz 2025** in collaboration with Delhi Public School, Prayagraj. The series began with a **Curtain Raiser on 9 September 2025**, followed by the final round on **12 September 2025** at DPS Naini.

Since its launch in 2014, the INTACH Annual Heritage Quiz has been one of INTACH's flagship national programmes, conducted in nearly 100 cities and leading to State and National rounds. The Prayagraj Chapter has hosted the quiz annually since 2016, encouraging students to explore India's rich cultural legacy.

#### Curtain Raiser Highlights (9 September 2025)

The Curtain Raiser featured:

- A short film on INTACH
- An introduction to INTACH's mission
- Motivational addresses by **Colonel Parag Bhargava** and **Mr. Vaibhav Maini**, emphasizing students' roles as "Torchbearers of Tradition"

#### City Level Quiz (12 September 2025)

A total of **58 teams** participated from leading CBSE schools. The Welcome Address was delivered by **Mrs. Pooja Gupta**, Programme Coordinator. After the written elimination round, students were introduced to Indian postal heritage through a presentation by **Mr. Vaibhav Maini**, followed by an address by Guest of Honour **Colonel Parag Bhargava**.

The top 10 teams advanced to the oral and visual rounds conducted by Quiz Master **Mrs. Divya Bacteria** through five engaging rounds combining oral, visual, audio, and buzzer formats.

#### Winners

- **First Prize:** *Bhavya Pandey & Ansh Yadav* (Patanjali Rishikul School)
- **First Runner-Up:** *Divyanshu Pandey & Arya Mishra* (Maharshi Vidya Mandir)
- **Second Runner-Up:** *Aqsa Mehmood & Zunaira Fatima* (LDC Public School)

#### Organizing Team

The event was meticulously coordinated by:

- **Mr. Shambhu Chopra**, Convener
- **Mr. Anupam Parihar**, Co-Convener
- **Mrs. Pooja Gupta**, Programme Coordinator
- **Mr. Vaibhav Maini**, Secretary
- **Mrs. Shruti Aggarwal**, Media Coordinator

Strong support was provided by the DPS Prayagraj team under **Mrs. Sonu Singh (President)** and **Dr. Sujata Singh (Principal)**.

The 2025 edition of the INTACH Heritage Quiz was not just a competition but a celebration of heritage, reaffirming the Prayagraj Chapter's commitment to nurturing cultural awareness among the youth.

### Varanasi

#### Summary of Activities

##### 1. Visit to Peshwa Haveli

- **Exhibition on 40 Years of INTACH** was viewed.

- **Exhibition on Dwadash Madhav of Prayagraj** was presented.
  - **Inspection of the Haveli and the Rooftop** was conducted to assess the current condition.
  - **Suggestions for Future Use** of Peshwa Haveli were shared by the Varanasi Chapter core group.
  - **Chairman's Remarks** were noted, highlighting the significance of the site and possible initiatives.
  - The visit concluded with **Tea**.
2. **Closing Ceremony of 3-Day Calligraphy Workshop Held at Sunbeam School, Bhagwanpur**, followed by a **lunch hosted by the School Management**. Certificates were distributed to all participants.
  3. **Visit to Parshwanath Vidyapeeth**  
A visit was made to view their collection and discuss the **INTACH Varanasi Chapter's initiative to set up a museum** in collaboration with the institution.
  4. **Talk on "History of Coins in India" at Diamond Hotel**  
A highly successful **2.30-hour session**, attended by nearly **100 members, guests, tourist guides, and travel trade representatives**. The event was followed by **High Tea**, to be reimbursed by the **Chapters Division**.
  5. **Inauguration of Art Exhibition**  
Based on the **2-day Art Camp** organised by **Kala Prakash** in association with **Diamond Hotel**. Interaction with participating artists took place, with **over an hour spent reviewing the artworks**.
  6. **Informal Meeting on Dwadash Aditya Booklet**  
Discussion on the booklet and updates on future publication plans. **Praveen ji** will provide necessary corrections and suggestions.
  7. **Dinner Hosted by INTACH Varanasi Chapter**  
A beautifully curated dinner by **Shri Abhijit Agrawal**, attended by the core group. The gathering also included **informal discussions** on ongoing and upcoming initiatives.

## 2. Visit to Parshwanath Vidyapeeth and Talk by Muni Shri Sanyam Ratna Ji Maharaj



INTACH Varanasi Chapter organised a members' visit to **Parshwanath Vidyapeeth**, the Centre for Jain Studies, on **Sunday, 3 August 2025**. The visit included a special talk by **Muni Shri Sanyam Ratna Ji Maharaj**, noted Jain Muni and scholar.

Members explored the **5-acre campus** of Parshwanath Vidyapeeth, established in **1937**, and were briefed by senior members of the Governing Body. They were also shown select objects and collections proposed to be displayed in a forthcoming museum. INTACH Varanasi Convener **Shri Ashok Kapoor**

suggested that **INTACH Delhi** could extend professional guidance for setting up the museum.

The talk by Muni Shri Sanyam Ratna Ji Maharaj was held in the seminar hall and attended by INTACH members along with students of the Vidyapeeth. The session included an interactive segment during which Muni Ji responded to questions from participants.

**Shri Satish Chand Jain**, INTACH Life Member and Trustee of Parshwanath Vidyapeeth, welcomed the gathering and introduced the institution's activities. **Shri Akhilesh Kumar**, INTACH Life Member and Senior Tourist Guide, spoke about Jain heritage sites in Varanasi. The vote of thanks was proposed by **Shri Ashok Kapoor**, Convener, INTACH Varanasi.

It is noteworthy that Parshwanath Vidyapeeth agreed to collaborate with INTACH for establishing the proposed museum. INTACH Chairman and **Ms. Bindu Manchanda** later visited the campus on **8 August** to discuss avenues for collaboration.

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### 3. National Handloom Day Activity – Visit to Handloom Factory

To mark **National Handloom Day**, INTACH Varanasi Chapter organised an educational visit for students to a **handloom weaving unit** to provide live demonstrations and promote awareness about handloom traditions.

INTACH Life Members **Shri Akhilesh Kumar** and **Shri Ram Nihal Singh** coordinated the visit and guided the students. Participants had the unique opportunity to sit at the looms and try weaving themselves.



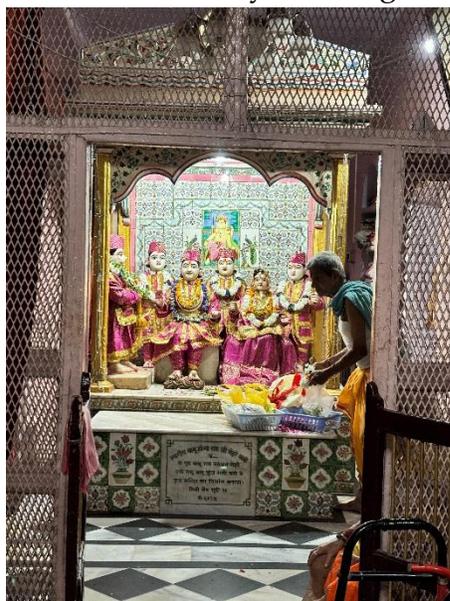
**Shri Vipin Mehta** of Mehta Silks welcomed the group and explained the importance of handloom, the challenges faced by artisans in the modern machine age, and the need to

preserve and promote this heritage craft. INTACH Varanasi Convener **Shri Ashok Kapoor** was also present during the visit.

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#### 4. Report on Heritage Walk - 24 August 2025

The INTACH Varanasi Chapter organized a Heritage Walk for its members and their families on Sunday, 24 August 2025, with the aim of exploring the hidden heritage



treasures of old Varanasi. This specially curated walk focused on the revered **Dwadash Adityas**—the twelve Sun temples of Varanasi.

The walk commenced at **Swami Narayan Temple**, where participants assembled at 7:30 AM. **Shri Ashok Kapoor**, Convener, INTACH Varanasi Chapter, initiated the walk, while **Shri Akhilesh Kumar**, Senior Tourist Guide and INTACH Life Member, provided an introductory briefing. This walk also formed a part of the ongoing **Dwadash Aaditya Temple Yatra**.

From the Swami Narayan Temple, the group proceeded to the **Kameshwar Mahadev Temple Complex**, offering prayers at Kameshwar Mahadev and visiting **Khakolkaditya**, the 6th Aditya of Varanasi. The temple priest shared valuable insights into the history and importance of this ancient temple

complex.

The next stop was the **Trilochan Mahadev Temple Complex**, where participants had darshan of Trilochan Mahadev. They also visited **Arunaditya**, the 7th Aditya of Varanasi, housed within the same premises.



The walk concluded at **Trilochan Ghat**, where members enjoyed a delicious traditional Banarasi breakfast at **Ganga House**, marking the end of a spiritually enriching and culturally insightful morning. The Heritage Walk not only strengthened camaraderie among the participants but also deepened their understanding of Varanasi's unique cultural and religious heritage.

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#### 5. Report on the Lecture - "The History of Coins in India"

**Date:** 8 August 2025

**Venue:** Auditorium, Diamond Hotel, Bhelupur

Under the **Virasat Darshan Lecture Series**, held once every two months, a distinguished lecture on "*The History of Coins in India*" was delivered on 8 August 2025. The keynote speaker was **Mr. Ashok Singh Thakur**, Chairman of INTACH, an eminent scholar and heritage conservationist.

The event drew nearly **100 attendees**, including members of the tourism fraternity, INTACH life members, students, and heritage enthusiasts. **Shri Jainendra Rai**, INTACH Life Member, Co-Convener of the Heritage Tourism Cell, and Past President of the Tourist Guide Association, introduced the Chief Guest and

welcomed the audience. Shri **Ashok Kapoor**, Convener, INTACH Varanasi Chapter, felicitated the Chief Guest.

In his engaging presentation, Mr. Thakur traced the evolution of coinage in India – from the earliest punch-marked coins of the 6th century BCE, to the Mauryan and Gupta periods, medieval and Mughal coins, and the modern currency introduced during the colonial era. He emphasized that coins serve not only as instruments of trade but also as crucial historical artefacts revealing insights into political authority, economy, art, religion, and language.

The lecture was followed by an interactive session where participants asked questions on the conservation of coins, their historical significance, and the need to preserve India's numismatic heritage.

The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks by **Mr. Nirmal Joshi**, Additional Co-Convener, INTACH Varanasi Chapter, who expressed gratitude to the Chairman for his insightful lecture and acknowledged the efforts of everyone involved in organizing the session. The session was conducted by **Shri Jainendra Rai**.

## 6. Report – “Know Your Heritage” Session at Sunbeam School & Hostel, Suncity

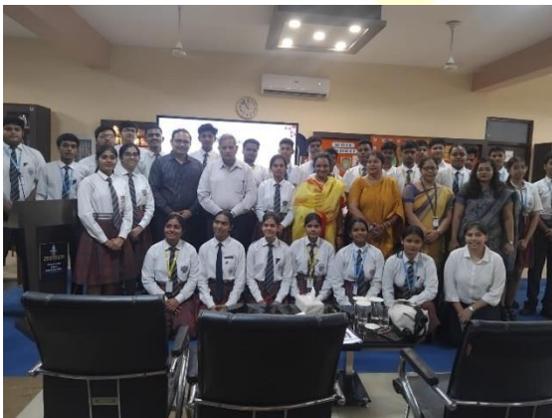
Shri **Ashok Kapoor**, Convener, INTACH Varanasi Chapter, and **Mrs. Mudita Kapoor**, a



leading architect and INTACH Life Member, were invited as Judges by **Sunbeam School & Hostel, Suncity** for their special session titled “**Know Your Heritage.**”

Students of Classes XI and XII participated in teams of four, with a total of **11 teams** presenting. Each team was allotted **5 minutes** for their presentation, followed by a brief Q&A session conducted by the judges. Most presentations

focused on architectural heritage, and the judges framed their questions accordingly.



All teams delivered well-researched, creative, and informative presentations, reflecting their interest in India's cultural and architectural legacy. After the session, the judges handed over the score sheets to the school authorities.

Sunbeam School & Hostel, Suncity is an **INTACH Institutional Member**, and the event reinforced the shared commitment to strengthening heritage awareness among youth.

## 7. Visit of INTACH Chairman to Peshwa Haveli, Rajghat – 8 August 2025

Shri Ashok Singh Thakur, Chairman INTACH, visited Peshwa Haveli, Rajghat on 8 August 2025 in the morning. He was accompanied by Ms Bindu Manchanda, Head, HCC



Division, and Mr Pravin Tiwari from the Craft Division. A team of ten members from the INTACH Varanasi Chapter joined the visit, including Shri Ashok Kapoor (Convener), Shri Anurag Chandra (Additional Co-Convener), Shri Anil Keshari (Additional Co-Convener), Shri Abhijit Agrawal, Shri Akhilesh

Kumar, Shri Jainendra Rai, Shri Neelesh Sinha, Shri Anish Jha, Shri Ram Nihal Singh, and Shri Varun Agrawal.

The Chairman first viewed the exhibition on 40 years of INTACH, comprising 43 panels sent by the Craft Division and displayed by the Varanasi Chapter. He appreciated the excellent presentation. The exhibition will be opened for invited guests, members, and school students once the floodwater recedes in October.

He then saw the 'Dwadash Madhav of Prayagraj' exhibition installed on the first floor,



sent by the ICH Division after its display during the Maha Kumbh. The Chairman took keen interest and observed the installation in detail.

Following this, he toured the Haveli up to the terrace to assess its current condition.

A meeting was held on the ground floor of the Haveli with

INTACH Varanasi Chapter members. Shri Anurag Chandra and Shri Abhijit Agrawal, both members of the Core Committee for Peshwa Haveli, presented their suggestions for the future use of the site. Shri Akhilesh Kumar, Senior Government of India-approved Tourist Guide and INTACH Life Member, along with senior travel trade representatives (also INTACH Life Members), shared an overview of potential activities that could be introduced.

Convener Shri Ashok Kapoor offered suggestions on ensuring the long-term sustainability of the Haveli. Shri Anil Keshari, Additional Co-Convener and Core Committee member, proposed developing the site into a yoga and cultural centre on a paid-use basis.

All members from the Varanasi Chapter unanimously recommended that the building should not be leased out again. Instead, they proposed that INTACH develop it as a cultural hub and centre for heritage awareness activities, with a commitment to making it financially sustainable.

The Chairman assured the members that their suggestions would be considered and confirmed that restoration work will commence after the monsoon season. All

recommendations discussed in the meeting have been forwarded separately to the INTACH Head Office.

## 8. INTACH Varanasi Chapter Tour to Gaya

INTACH Varanasi Chapter, under the guidance of **Shri Ashok Kapoor, Convener**, organized a culturally enriching and well-curated tour to **Gaya**. **Shri Anurag Chandra** and other senior members provided excellent assistance throughout the trip.



The group was privileged to be accompanied by professional guides—**Shri Akhilesh Kumar, Shri Jainendra Rai, and Dr. Ajay Singh**—who kept the participants engaged with insightful narratives on the history, legends, and significance of each site. Over **40 members** joined the tour, traveling in a luxury bus.

### Journey and En Route Activities

The group departed for Bodh Gaya, a six-hour journey during which the bus's large screen and sound system enabled the screening of two films:

- **INTACH documentary**, and
- **"Kan Kan Mein Ram"**

Some INTACH members who are Buddhist scholars also briefed the participants about **Buddhist philosophy and practices**, setting the tone for the visit.

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### Visit to Bodh Gaya

After hotel check-in, the group proceeded to **Bodh Gaya**, one of the holiest Buddhist pilgrimage sites in the world.

#### Great Buddha Statue & Temple Complex

The tour began with the viewing of the **towering Buddha statue**, created by the **Daijokyo**



**Sect of Japan**. The group then explored the surrounding premises, beginning with a large water body featuring a statue of the Buddha protected by a multi-hooded serpent—symbolic of the episode when **Mucalinda** sheltered Buddha during a violent thunderstorm. The group then examined the **stone railings** near the Mahabodhi Temple. Some of these are **original Ashokan-era railings** dating back to **150 BCE**,

featuring inscriptions and early artistic carvings. Several originals are preserved in museums while replicas are installed on site.

#### Mahabodhi Tree and Temple

Moving ahead, the participants reached the sacred **Mahabodhi Tree**, under which Lord Buddha attained enlightenment. Numerous sculptures and ancient inscriptions are placed at its base.

The group then entered the **Mahabodhi Temple**, whose pyramidal structure is believed to date to the **Gupta period (6th century CE)**. Images of similar structures are found on coins from **150 BCE**, showing the ancient significance of the site. The temple has been restored multiple times. Inside, members viewed the magnificent seated statue of Lord Buddha.

Bodh Gaya remains an important international pilgrimage destination, with numerous monasteries, temples, and accommodation options developed by various countries and Buddhist organizations.

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### Falgu Riverfront and Vishnupad Temple

After returning to the hotel, the group departed for the **Falgu Riverfront**. A long concrete embankment, developed recently, offered a scenic walkway. Participants enjoyed the riverside views and witnessed the **evening Aarti** comfortably, arranged through local contacts. Preparations by authorities were visibly underway for the upcoming **Pitrapaksha** pilgrimage.

The group then proceeded to the historic **Vishnupad Temple**, famed for the sacred footprint of **Lord Vishnu**, believed to mark the spot where he subdued the demon **Gayasur**. The holy stone here is known as **Dharmashila**.

The present temple structure was built in **1787** by **Queen Ahilyabai Holkar** of Indore, using locally quarried stone from Bathani and Patharkatti and crafted by Rajasthani artisans.

The narrow lanes leading to the temple reminded members of the bylanes of Varanasi. After completing the visit, the group returned to the hotel.

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### Visit to Barabar Caves

The next morning, the group left early for **Barabar Caves**, located in **Jehanabad district**, about two hours away. The scenic countryside, lush from monsoon rains, led to the dramatic granite hills that house the caves.

A half-hour uphill climb brought the group to the ancient cave complex—one of the oldest surviving rock-cut caves in India.



#### Highlights of Barabar Caves

- The caves are carved from **hard granite**, with astonishing mirror-polished interiors.
- The perfection of the polish suggests advanced craftsmanship and techniques.
- Many caves feature **Pali and Prakrit inscriptions** on both interior and exterior walls.
- Guides translated several inscriptions for the group.
- The caves are linked to the **Ajivika sect**, an ascetic order older than Buddhism and Jainism.
- The caves were **donated by Emperor Ashoka** to the Ajivika community, possibly influenced by his mother, who is believed to have been a follower.

The remote and peaceful setting made it evident why the caves served as ideal sites for meditation.

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### Return Journey

With the tour offering deep historical insights and memorable experiences, the group began its **eight-hour journey back to Varanasi**. During the return trip, two informative documentaries titled “**Ganga Katha**”, part of INTACH’s Ganga Documentation Project under **Namami Gange**, were screened.

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### 9. Upcoming Inter-School Competition – 15 October 2025

Following the great success of the film-based quiz curated by Additional Co-Convener **Mr. Joshi**, the INTACH Varanasi Chapter is organising yet another unique and engaging competition scheduled for **15 October 2025**. Due to time constraints, participation will be limited to a maximum of **12 schools**.

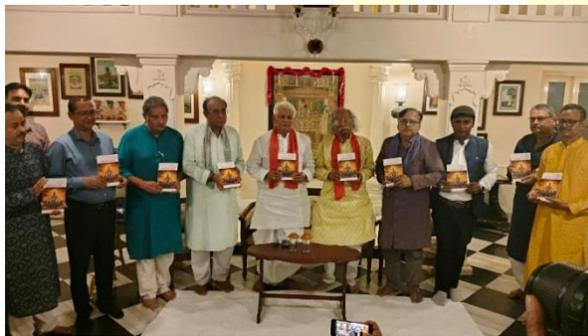
Prizes will be awarded to the **1st, 2nd, and 3rd position winners**, along with **two special prizes**. All other participants will also receive consolation gifts. It would be helpful if some books could be sent from Delhi for distribution. Trophies are being prepared locally, and **certificates will be given to all participants**, with **4-5 students** representing each team.

The **host school** will provide refreshments for all students and make necessary venue arrangements.

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### 10. Release of the Book *Kashi ke Baarah Aditya*

The INTACH Varanasi Chapter, with support from the **Publication Division, INTACH**



**Delhi**, has published a new book titled *Kashi ke Baarah Aditya*. The book has been authored jointly by **Mr Akhilesh Kumar** and **Mr Jainendra Rai**, both INTACH Life Members, senior Government of India-approved Tourist Guides, and well-known storytellers of Varanasi.

The authors visited all twelve Aditya sites multiple times, undertook extensive research, studied available literature, and consulted scholars to compile this valuable work. The book serves as an excellent resource for domestic religious tourists as well as visitors seeking to explore the lesser-known yet ancient heritage sites of Varanasi.

The book was formally released by:

- **Mahant Prof. Vishambhar Nath Mishra**  
(Sankat Mochan Mahant, Mahant Akhada Tulsi Das, and Professor of Electronics, IIT-BHU)
- **Padma Shri Dr. Rajeshwar Acharya**
- **Padma Shri Prof. Ritwik Sanyal**
- **Padma Shri S. Supakar**

The event was graciously hosted by **Shri Shashank Singh** of Hotel Ganges View, Assi. **Mr. Anil Keshari**, Additional Co-Convener, supported the printing of the book, while **Shri Ashok Kapoor**, Convener, INTACH Varanasi Chapter, coordinated the entire

project. This marks the proud release of the **first book in the series**. The event saw enthusiastic participation from travel trade professionals, students, and INTACH members.

### 11. Exhibition on 40 Years of INTACH and On-the-Spot Painting Competition

An exhibition showcasing **40 years of INTACH** was set up at the **INTACH Cultural Centre, Peshwa Haveli, Rajghat, Varanasi**, by the **Heritage Crafts and Community Division (HCCD), INTACH**. The display featured **43 panels**, installed across the heritage premises.

The INTACH Varanasi Chapter invited students from INTACH member schools to visit



the exhibition and create **on-the-spot paintings inspired by the displays**. Around **100 students from 10 schools** visited the venue across **8, 9, and 10 October 2025** in scheduled time slots. Students viewed the panels in small batches; **Ashok Kapoor, Nirmal Joshi, and Anil Keshari** from the Varanasi Chapter briefed them about INTACH's work. Art paper was provided, and students submitted their **watercolour paintings** within an hour.

All students received **certificates of participation and light refreshments**. The artworks were later evaluated by expert judges.

The **Prize Distribution Ceremony** was held on **16 October 2025** at Peshwa Haveli, Rajghat. Trophies were awarded to the participating schools, and prize winners were honoured with certificates, trophies, and books published by INTACH.

The Chief Guest was **Shri Tilak Raj Kapoor**, a **97-year-old freedom fighter**, who spoke about the importance of education beyond textbooks, especially heritage awareness. Awards were jointly presented by him and **Shri Ashok Kapoor**, Convener of the Varanasi Chapter.

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### 12. Competition Based on the Film *Kan Kan Mein Ram*

INTACH Varanasi Chapter organised a student competition based on the film *Kan Kan Mein Ram*, produced by the **ICH Division, INTACH Delhi**. The event was hosted by



**Seth M.R. Jaipuria School, Parao Campus**, the newest institutional member of INTACH. The school provided excellent infrastructure, including a fully equipped hall and trained staff.

Teams of **five students each** from **11 INTACH member schools** participated. The film had been shared with all registered schools beforehand. Each team presented a **4-5 minute group presentation** based on the film.



The evaluation was carried out by **three independent judges**, supplemented by a unique and transparent judging method devised by **Mr. Nirmal Joshi, Additional Co-Convener**—every accompanying teacher evaluated the performances of all schools *except their own*.

Results were announced after a brief deliberation of 30 minutes. **Trophies, prizes, books, and certificates** were awarded to winners and all

participants. The host school provided **refreshments** for all students and teachers.

### 13. Know Your Heritage Visit to Man Mahal Virtual Museum

The INTACH Varanasi Chapter organised a **heritage visit** for students of **Sunbeam School, Mughalsarai**, an INTACH institutional member, to the **Man Mahal Virtual**



**Museum and Observatory** as part of the **Know Your Heritage** programme.

INTACH was the **knowledge partner and consultant** for the development of the museum, which showcases exhibits depicting the **life, culture, crafts, handlooms, literature, and music** of Banaras.

**Dr. Sandhya Vishwakarma**, INTACH member and PhD in Museology, briefed the students on behalf of the Chapter.

Over the coming days, INTACH Varanasi

Chapter will organise **multiple similar visits** for students from various schools to different heritage sites and museums across the city, fostering greater heritage awareness.

### 14. Dev Deepawali Celebration at Peshwa Haveli, Rajghat

INTACH Varanasi Chapter celebrated **Dev Deepawali** on **5 November 2025** at the



historic **Peshwa Haveli, Rajghat**. Dev Deepawali, observed on **Kartik Purnima**, is one of Kashi's most magnificent festivals, during which all ghats and buildings are illuminated with traditional **oil diyas** and decorative **electric jhaalars**, creating a spectacular visual experience along the Ganga.

The event was coordinated by **Shri Akhilesh Kumar**, INTACH Life Member and Government of India-approved Tourist Guide, along with **Shri Ashok Kapoor**, Convener, INTACH

Varanasi Chapter. With the support of the **Varanasi Tourism Association**, refreshments were arranged for all attending INTACH members and participants.

The entire Peshwa Haveli was beautifully lit with oil diyas across all floors. A soulful **shehnai recital** was organised at the **Baradari**, enhancing the traditional ambience of the evening. At the adjoining ghat, a special **Ganga Aarti** was conducted with the assistance of **Shri Shadanan Pathak**, INTACH member, allowing participants to experience the divine aura of Dev Deepawali in a serene heritage setting.

## Uttarakhand

### 1. WORLD PHOTOGRAPHY DAY 2025

19 AUGUST 2025

On World Photography Day, August 19, 2025, in Dehradun, a unique event celebrated the work of legendary ascetic-photographer Swami Sundaranand Ji (1926-2020) with a rare 35mm analog slide show. The slides, presented by Pranav Kukreti, were often over 50 years old and captured the overwhelming beauty of the Himalayas, the simplicity of hill life, and the grandeur of the 1986 Kumbh Mela. The event, introduced by INTACH's Anjali Bharthari, allowed the audience to witness unfiltered photographic history. Several guests, including writer-editor Perna Raturi and former bureaucrat Mrs. Vibha Puri Das, shared personal anecdotes about the Swami, who was also a spiritual master and intrepid Himalayan explorer.

### 2. HISTORIC CITIES SERIES 2025

23 SEPTEMBER 2025

INTACH Dehradun created one of the first platform for inter-disciplinary professional



discourse on HUL with respect to the city of Dehradun. It was an interesting discussion, where the pannelist looked at Dehradun as a historic town for its rich natural and cultural heritage. Issues of water,rivers, canals, swamps, geological heritage were shared and recognised as heritage apart from the built heritage of the town which spans from

Murayan, Sikhs, Mudgal, British and art decor styles. The importance of incorporating heritage across the urban planning process was required for Dehradun to be a sustainable mountain city. The deliberations concluded with the way forward with to develop e content for awareness and capacity building.

### 3. EXHIBITION CONTINUUM: A COMMITMENT TO THE PAST AND THE FUTURE - 25 YEARS OF CULTURAL CELEBRATION"

25-26 October 2025

The exhibition 'Continuum', showcased at the Valley of Words, arts and literature festival, was a celebration



of Uttarakhand's rich diversity in materials that shape everyday life, such as food, jewellery, dress, music and cinema. These elements, once purely functional, have transformed over time into powerful metaphors of identity, culture, art and expression. The exhibition was graced by distinguished guests, including Sri Yugal Kishore Pant, Sec Culture, Shri Ravi Shankar, Mr Anil Rathuri,

Mrs Radha Rathuri, Bijoya Sajwan, Ratna Minocha, Mugdha Sinha, Dr Ravi Chopra, officers from the Indian Army, school and college students and other dignitaries. From indigenous traditions to contemporary interpretations, this exhibition brings together a diverse group of artists who explore the evolution of Uttarakhand through various everyday materials. It showcases the interactions between cultural heritage and innovation.

#### **4. 2 DAY WORKSHOP AT THE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING, DIT UNIVERSITY (DITU) SUSTAINABLE MATERIAL & DESIGN IN CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE 28-29 OCTOBER 2025**



In its continued effort to conserve traditional craftsmanship while balancing it with sustainable technologies, the INTACH Uttarakhand State Chapter, in collaboration with the School of Architecture and Planning, DIT University (DITU), organised a two-day hands-on workshop at the DIT Campus, Dehradun. The workshop brought together academics, practitioners, and members of civil society to reflect on evolving conservation practices and the integration of

sustainability in contemporary architecture. Through the various case study reviews and interactive sessions, attendees gained insights into lifecycle impacts, certifications, and sustainable sourcing strategies.

## 5. DOCUMENTARY ON PANDAV NRITYA



Pandav Nritya is a unique traditional folk dance of Uttarakhand. A grand celebration of the Pandav Nritya is held every 8 to 10 years in Ghimatoli village of Rudraprayag district. In this event, the entire village community participates collectively, and the celebration is carried out continuously for about 1 to 2 months, both during the day and at night. The Pandav Nritya is performed in the village's Panchayati courtyard. INTACH funded a documentary of this unique art form through its Intangible Heritage Division, New Delhi.

## 6. CHILDREN'S STORYBOOK ON SHRI GURU RAM RAI DARBAR SAHIB

This project focuses on introducing young readers to the history and cultural significance of Shri Guru Ram Rai Darbar Sahib through an illustrated children's storybook. The aim was to simplify complex historical narratives into engaging, age-appropriate content that is both educational and visually appealing. Extensive research and storytelling techniques were used to make the narrative relatable, while vibrant illustrations were employed to hold the attention of young readers. The project demonstrates how visual storytelling can be a powerful tool to foster early cultural awareness and heritage appreciation among children.

## 7. DIGITAL EXHIBITION ON SHRI GURU RAM RAI DARBAR SAHIB

This project involved designing an online exhibition to digitally preserve and showcase the cultural and historical significance of Shri Guru Ram Rai Darbar Sahib in Dehradun. Through primary research, site visits, and visual documentation the exhibition presents verified historical content using curated visuals and a user-centered design approach. A clean monochrome design was adopted to ensure accessibility and focus aligning with the project's goal of engaging users in a formal yet interactive experience. The outcome highlighted how digital platforms can effectively support cultural preservation and public education.

## 8. RESTORATION PROJECTS IN THE PIPELINE

**Cemetery :** We received a request for a report on the restoration of a cemetery. A detailed



survey of the site was conducted by a conservation architect from the Delhi office, along with the Convenor-in-Charge, Uttarakhand. A thorough site inspection was carried out at site to prepare a assesmnet report of the restoration plan to Dehradun. **Shore's Well:** Loacted near the district collectrate office in the heart of Dehradun is a 1823 well dung by Mr. Shore, who was the Jt Magistrate and Revenue Suprintendent He dug 29 such well around Dehradun to meet the demand of potable water. Only one of them surives. INTACH prepared an assessment report to be submitted to the administration for its conservation. The site is

not just a heritage landmark, but also serves as an important reminder of water conservation.

### Dehradun Chapter

WORLD PHOTOGRAPHY DAY 2025

20 AUGUST 2025

The INTACH Dehradun Chapter, in collaboration with INTACH Uttarakhand, successfully organized a Photography Competition on the theme "My City Heritage" to celebrate World Photography Day 2025. The competition aimed to encourage participants to capture the essence of Dehradun's rich cultural and natural heritage, including its temples, havelis, colonial charm, bazaars, and landscapes. With an overwhelming response of 30 participants, the competition witnessed remarkable creativity, with photographers showcasing unique perspectives of Dehradun's heritage. Five best entires were adjudged.

- Cadet Abhishek Vinod, RIMC.
- Vihan Kuchhal, Welham Boys
- Naveen Goswami
- Pranav Kukreti, Independent collector

- Surjeet Singh Khaira, Retd teacher

The winners will be awarded exciting prizes and their entries will be featured in INTACH's events and publications. All participants will receive E-certificates for their enthusiastic contributions. Speaking on the occasion, Bharti Jain, Convenor, INTACH Dehradun Chapter, expressed, "This initiative not only highlighted the photographic talent of the city but also brought to light the importance of preserving Dehradun's heritage." Apurva Gour, Co-Convenor, INTACH Dehradun Chapter, added, "Through such competitions, we aim to involve citizens in celebrating and safeguarding our shared cultural legacy."

## Mussoorie

### Annual Meeting of Mussoorie sub chapter 2024 - 2025

INTACH Mussoorie sub chapter held its Annual meeting on 19th July 2025 at The Fern Brentwood Resort, Mussoorie. The meeting was attended both online and in person by the members. In person - Ms. Surbhi Agarwal (Co Convenor), Mr. Pankaj Joshi, Mr.



Sandeep Sahni, Dr. Sejal Worah, Mr. Sanjay Tamta, Ms. Stuti Panwar. Online - Mrs. Kriti Wadhwa, Mrs. Harshada Worah, Mrs. Neeta Rawat Rajpal, Mr. Rahul Kohli and Mrs. Vinita Kohli. We invited some guests from the town to join us and see our work, namely Mr. Shailendra Karanwal, Mrs. Sterra Sharma, Mrs. Jaijaiwanti Karanwal, Mrs. Dipa Singh, Ms. Pakhi Singh and Ms. Pia Singh.

We discussed our upcoming activities and then some of our future aims and objectives. Several members put up their views and suggestions for the coming months. We played a short clip on Selku Mela of Harsil Valley in Uttarakhand by member Ms. Stuti Panwar. Our 2nd clip was by a student Vaishnavi Rawat of Sanatan Dharm Inter College on a folk ritual of Garhwal region, which she had filmed in her native Village in Garhwal Jaunpur.

In August the Chapter organized 2 online competitions both based on the local festivals, fairs and processions. The first was the One minute REEL making competition of the Bhadraj mela. Bhadraj temple in Mussoorie is an ancient temple dedicated to Lord Krishna's brother Balram. In August a mela is organized where devotees from far and wide visit. On the first day of the mela the dholi of Lord Bhadraj is taken around. This year over 5 lakh devotees visited. They offer butter, curd and milk to the deity. The Jaunpur region traditions, dances, food, music all come alive at this 3 day long mela. Entries from 2 Mussoorie schools were received. Our judge for this competition was Filmmaker Mrs. Sanyukta Sharma. The winner of our Bhadraj temple One minute REEL competition was Nisba class 9th student from Sanatan Dharm Girls Intercollege, Mussoorie.

Our second competition was a Hindi Photo essay on the historical procession of Janamashtami in Landour bazaar. Landour bazaar is the oldest bazaar of the region dating back to over 200 years. In the late 19th century the tradition of Lord Krishna dholi parikrama was started and since then each Janamashtami the dholi is taken around the town. Along with the dholi is a large procession with traditional dancers, jhakis, kirtan mandali etc. Over 50 entries were received from 4 local Mussoorie Schools. Our judges Mrs.Renu Agarwal, Mrs.Nidhi Bahuguna and Mr.Raj Bijalwan patiently read through each entry. The entries were judged on the essay composition, content, handwriting and photograph. All 3 winners were from Mahatama Yogeshwar Saraswati Sishu Vidya Mandir, Mussoorie.

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### **INTACH Interschool Heritage Quiz Mussoorie**

On 20th September, 2025, the city round of INTACH'S Inter-school Heritage Quiz took place at Mahatama Yogeshwar Saraswati Sishu Vidya Mandir, Mussoorie. The initial



round of the quiz involved the participation of 64 students from different schools of the town. Out of these , 4 teams of 2 students from different schools got selected for the final round of the Oral quiz. Oak Grove School, Mussoorie bagged the first prize. Wynberg Allen School and St Clare's Convent School got second and third prize respectively. The chief

guest of the day was Mrs. Alpana Pant Sharma retired IFS officer. The chief guest congratulated the students and encouraged them to focus on heritage and culture. It was a day of diving deep into the realms of Indian knowledge, culture, heritage, art and traditions. The co-Convener of INTACH, Mussoorie Chapter, Surbhi Agarwal reiterated the need to develop the understanding and concern for heritage and its conservation. She added that the participation from schools of the town can constructively drive the awareness campaign towards art, culture and heritage. The team members, Mr.Shailendra Karanwal, Mrs. Rashmi Karanwal, Mrs. Jaijaiwanti Karanwal, Dipankar Tripathi, Mrs. Neeta Rawat, Kriti Wadhwa, Mrs. Nidhi Bahuguna, Raj Bijalwan, Sterre Sharma, Kush Verma, were present.

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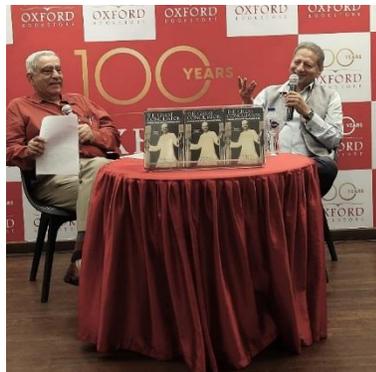
### **Talk by Anthropologist Joyce Burkhalter Flueckiger titled**

Memory, Movement & Belonging In Landour Bazaar: Some Themes of Shopkeepers' Stories. The Landour Lecture Series and Mussoorie Heritage Centre collaborated with INTACH Mussoorie for this talk. Mrs. Flueckiger was born in Landour and studied at the Woodstock School. She spent several years interacting and recording the lives and memories of the shopkeepers of the Landour bazaar. Her book ' On Mullingar Hill' is published by Primus. Her talk delved into several such unique stories and excerpts. The

audience consisted of several Landour citizens, anthropologists, Phd research students etc.

## West Bengal Kolkata

### 1. DISCUSSION ON 'THE GREAT CONCILIATOR - LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF INDIA'



DATE: 01-08-2025

It was an engaging Saturday morning at the Oxford Bookstores, around an insightful discussion on new book 'The Great Conciliator - Lal Bahadur Shastri and the Transformation of India'. SJV Chopra, author and former IAS officer with G.M. Kapur, State Convener of INTACH held the audience in an enriching conversation on the life and legacy of India's second Prime Minister.

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### 2. INTACH FILMIT WORKSHOP AT SRI SRI ACADEMY

DATE: 01-08-2025

On 1st Aug, 2025 the INTACH FilmIt workshop was held at the Sri Sri Academy where



16 schools from Kolkata participated. Ms. Gargi Banerjee, principal Sri Sri Academy and Ms. Kanchana Mukhopadhyay, co-Convener @intach.calcutta gave inaugural speeches for the day-long workshop.

The INTACH FilmIt workshop was coordinated by Mr. Abhishek Das, coordinator, INTACH Heritage Education and Communication Service (HECS) along with technical experts Ms. Shikha Gupta and Ms.

Sasha Singh from INTACH Delhi. The team gave training session on how to make heritage films, process of shooting and editing in two to three minutes to students and teachers.

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### 3. CHAPTER MEETING AND BOOK DISCUSSION AT BINGSHA SHATABDI

DATE: 25-08-2025

On 25 August, 2025 evening, INTACH Calcutta Chapter Meeting was held at Bingsha



Shatabdi, Park Street. Led by the Convener Mr. G.M. Kapur with Co-Conveners Ms. Kanchana Mukhopadhyay and Nayantara Palchoudhuri and members the meeting's agenda was an overall review of ongoing projects and upcoming activities of the Chapter.

The evening concluded with a presentation by Mr. Devasis Chattopadhyay on book launch 'Harry Hobbs of Kolkata and Other

Forgotten Lives'. A captivating discussion that stoked the member audience's curiosity and interest in the city's history.

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#### 4. DISCUSSION AND Q&A AT INDENTURED MEMORIAL DAY: A COMMEMORATIVE SEMINAR



DATE: 15-09-2025

On 15th September, 2025 G. M. Kapur, Convener INTACH Calcutta Chapter, moderated a discussion and Q&A Session on the theme of 'Memories and Identity' along with Kaberi Chattopadhyay of SMPK as part of the Indentured Memorial Day: A Commemorative Seminar organised by the Syama Prasad

Mookherjee Port, Kolkata.

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#### 5. PAPER PRESENTATION ON ELOKESHI KANTHA AT IASC 52ND NATIONAL CONFERENCE

DATE: 23-09-2025 to 25-09-2025



Mr. Subash Chandra Baral, Senior Conservator, INTACH ICI Kolkata, participated in the three-day national conference on 'Conservation of Cultural Heritage with an Emphasis on Textiles'. This was the 52nd National Conference of the IASC. He presented a conservation case study on Elokeshi Kantha, an old textile collection from Birla Academy of Art and Culture, and elaborated on the challenges and treatments of working on the historically significant piece.

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#### 6. INTACH NATIONAL HERITAGE QUIZ (CITY LEVEL):

Date: 30th October, 2025

INTACH NATIONAL HERITAGE QUIZ 2025 was organised by INTACH Calcutta Regional Chapter at Apeejay School, Park Street, Kolkata on Thursday, 30th October, 2025.

In this competition 38 students from 7 schools of Kolkata participated at the City Level. Participating schools included Shri Shikshayatan School, Apeejay School Park Street,

Garden High School, Calcutta Public School Bidhan Park, The Heritage School, Lakshmiapat Singhania Academy and Birla High School Moira Street.



The programme was inaugurated with a welcome address by Paromita Guha Roy, Principal, Apeejay School Park Street. The quiz competition was conducted by the quizmaster Smita Mehta, member of INTACH, Calcutta Chapter over 1 written round and 4 verbal

rounds. The Heritage School secured second position. Garden High School won the City Level of the quiz and qualified to represent INTACH Calcutta Chapter at the State Level. Balaknath Bhattacharjee, Convener, INTACH Murshidabad Chapter, was present during the event and presented the prizes to the winners of the City Level.

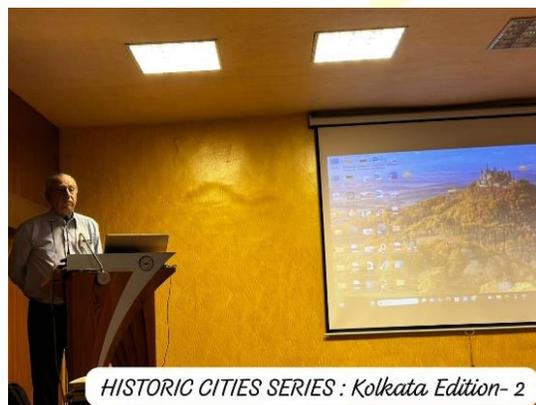
## 7. INTACH NATIONAL HERITAGE QUIZ (STATE LEVEL):

INTACH NATIONAL HERITAGE QUIZ 2025 (State Level) was organised by INTACH Calcutta Regional Chapter at Apeejay School Park Street, Kolkata on 30th October, 2025. In this competition 6 students from 3 schools representing the Calcutta, Hooghly and Murshidabad Chapters of INTACH participated. They were GARDEN HIGH SCHOOL - INTACH CALCUTTA CHAPTER, HARIPAL GURUDAYAL INSTITUTION - INTACH HOOGHLY CHAPTER and SARGACHI RAMAKRISHNA MISSION HIGH SCHOOL - INTACH MURSHIDABAD CHAPTER.

The programme was started with the inauguration speech by Mr. Balaknath Bhattacharyya, Convener, Murshidabad Chapter. The quiz competition was conducted by the quizmaster Smita Mehta, member of INTACH, Calcutta Chapter over 5 rounds. The third position was secured by Garden High School representing INTACH Calcutta Chapter. Haripal Gurudayal Institution representing INTACH Hooghly Chapter secured second position. Sargachi Ramakrishna Mission High School representing INTACH Murshidabad Chapter won the State Level of the quiz and qualified to represent West Bengal at the National Level. Balaknath Bhattacharjee, Convener, INTACH Murshidabad Chapter, presented the prizes to the winners of the State Level.



## 8. PANEL DISCUSSION ON HISTORIC CITY SERIES:



On 30th October, 2025, Mr. G.M. Kapur, Convener of INTACH Calcutta Chapter, was part of a panel discussion on 'Way Forward' at The Riverbank City: Kolkata and its Ghatscape under the Historic Cities Series: Kolkata Edition-2. The event was organised by the Centre for Human Settlement Planning and Department of Architecture, Jadavpur University, and supported by ICOMOS India East Zone. The event was headlined by an outstanding keynote speech by Dr. Kalyan Rudra, Chairman, WBPCB.

## Murshidabad

## Workshop on 'Jute Art & Craft'

Under the 'Revival of Dying Art Programme'

Organised by INTACH Murshidabad Chapter

8–9 September 2025\*\*

The jute industry, once a flourishing sector before 1947, has today declined significantly due to several historical and economic factors. After the partition of Bengal in 1947, most of the jute-producing areas went to East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), while the majority of the jute mills remained in West Bengal, India. With raw jute largely available on the eastern side of the border, East Pakistan rapidly set up jute mills to utilise the abundant supply. Meanwhile, the mills in West Bengal faced severe raw material shortages, leading to operational losses and eventual closure of many units.

Another major reason for the decline of the jute industry has been the reduced use of traditional jute products—such as sacks, bags, and ropes—due to the widespread availability of cheaper plastic alternatives.

In recent years, experts have suggested reviving the jute industry by promoting new applications such as jute-based art, craft, and utility items including doormats, coasters, decorative pieces, and other handmade products. As jute is biodegradable and eco-friendly, it holds strong appeal for environmentally conscious consumers both in India and internationally.

### The Workshop

With this objective in mind, the INTACH Murshidabad Chapter organised a two-day workshop on 8th and 9th September 2025 at the hall of Seva Miloni High School, Khagra, Berhampur. The workshop aimed at training students of Classes VII to IX from across the district in the creation of jute-based art and craft. A total of **36 students** from various schools participated.

On the first day, eminent jute artist **Shri Sandip Guin**—a well-known Berhampore-based artist and recipient of multiple awards—conducted a hands-on training session. He demonstrated various techniques of crafting decorative and functional objects using jute ropes of different sizes.

On the second day, the students independently created art and craft items of their choice. Their enthusiasm and creativity were noteworthy. Remarkably, every participant produced work that was not only aesthetically beautiful but also of exceptionally high quality. Many of the items were judged to be of marketable standard, reflecting the effectiveness of the training and the potential of the students.

### Results and Recognition

Given the outstanding quality of the submissions, ranking the entries proved extremely difficult. Therefore, instead of awarding only the top three positions, the Chapter decided to honour the **top six entries**.

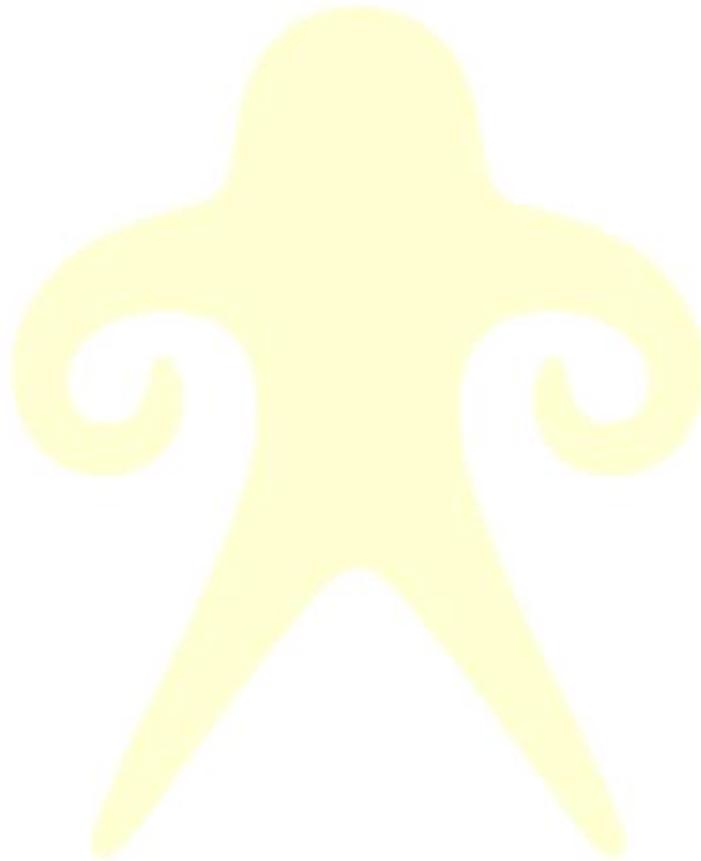
The first three prize winners as declared were:

1. **1st Prize:** *Ayan Debnath*, Sargachhi Ramakrishna Mission High School
2. **2nd Prize:** *Eshan Mondal*, Sargachhi Ramakrishna Mission High School
3. **3rd Prize:** *Shubham Saha*, Sargachhi Ramakrishna Mission High School

The Murshidabad Chapter extends heartfelt congratulations to all participants and especially acknowledges the contribution of the trainer, Shri Sandip Guin, whose guidance enabled such impressive results.



*Workshop on 'Jute art & craft' under 'revival of dying art Programme'*



## Heritage Education and Communication Service (HECS) Activities

### TEACHER WORKSHOPS FOR HERITAGE AWARENESS AND HERITAGE CLUBS

#### DPS SOCIETY HRDC, GREATER NOIDA

11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> August, 94 teachers, 94 DPS Schools

A specialised workshop for DPS schools across the India was organized by HECS, INTACH, held at the HRDC Building, DPS Knowledge Park-V, Greater Noida. The objective of the workshop was to equip educators with tools and strategies for integrating heritage education into school curricula, fostering cultural awareness and appreciation among students. The resource teams were- Ms. Purnima Datt (Principal Director, HECS), Ms. Christina Shangne, Ms. Vaishnavi, Ms. Nanki Kaur, and Mr. Deepanshu. The workshop employed a practical and interactive format, including a PowerPoint presentation, film screening, group discussions, interactive games and activities. Resource materials were also distributed. The workshop successfully engaged educators in heritage education, offering practical tools and creative strategies to bring India's rich cultural legacy into classrooms. Participants left with renewed inspiration and actionable ideas to foster heritage awareness among students.



#### DIMAPUR

28<sup>th</sup>- 29<sup>th</sup> August, 15 teachers, 9 schools

Heritage Education and Communication Service (HECS) of INTACH, in collaboration with the INTACH Nagaland Chapter, successfully conducted a two-day workshop on heritage awareness and heritage club for teachers held at the Don Bosco Institute for Development & Leadership, Dimapur. Key attendees included Ms. Sentila T. Yanger (Convenor, INTACH Nagaland Chapter), Mr. Mefutiba AO (Co-Convenor), chapter members, and Life Members of INTACH. Representing HECS were Ms. Purnima Datt, Principal Director, HECS and Ms. Christina Shangne, Senior Programme Coordinator. The workshop opened with a welcome address by Ms. Sentila Yanger, who emphasized the region's rich intangible heritage and India's role in UNESCO nominations. Ms. Purnima Datt's session, "What is Heritage?", explored India's cultural diversity and the importance of preservation. Ms. Yanger added depth with stories of traditional tattooing and natural dye practices, while Ms. Datt later introduced strategies for integrating heritage education into classrooms. Day two featured a heritage walk at the historic Kachari Ruins, followed by an interactive session led by Ms. Datt and Ms. Shangne on HECS resources, the Young INTACH website, and social media. Teachers showcased Nagaland's heritage through creative group presentations.



**KACHARI RUINS**

The Kachari Ruins in Dimapur, Nagaland are remnants of the 13<sup>th</sup> century Dimasa Kachari Kingdom; feature a striking array of mushroom-domed pillars. Their origin and purpose remain a mystery. Some pillars stand tall while others lie in ruins, reflecting the grandeur of a bygone era.

**MANDLA**  
**28<sup>th</sup>- 29<sup>th</sup> August, 46 teachers, 38 schools**

INTACH's Heritage Education and Communication Service (HECS), in collaboration with the Mandla Chapter, hosted a vibrant two-day teachers' training workshop at DIET, Mandla. The teachers participated in sessions designed to deepen understanding of heritage and its classroom integration. , the workshop was honoured by the presence of Chief Guest Mr. Deepak Khandekar, Convenor, INTACH Madhya Pradesh, along with Mr. Sanjay Mehrotra, Convenor, INTACH Jabalpur Chapter. Mr. Arvind Shukla opened with insights into Mandla's rich legacy, from dinosaur fossils to the Kalachuri and Gond dynasties. Mr. Abhishek Das and Mr. Deepanshu of HECS explored heritage dimensions- Natural, Living, Built, and Material, while Chief Guest Mr. Deepak Khandekar emphasized the importance of Heritage Clubs in schools. Day two featured a heritage walk guided by Mr. Shukla to Ramnagar's Moti Mahal and nearby sites, enriched by local storytelling. Mr. Das and Mr. Deepanshu also introduced the HECS publications and resources to the teachers. Teachers then presented creative group activity on Garam Pani Kund, Narmada Aarti, Gondi Art, and the Narmada Ghats.



**MOTI MAHAL**

The 350-year-old Moti Mahal, Madhya Pradesh built by Gond King Hriday Shah, stands as a majestic bridge to the past. Once the power center of Northern Gondwana for 85 years before the capital shifted to Mandla, the three-storeyed palace reflects Mughal architectural influence. An inscription in its courtyard lists the lineage of Gond kings.

## BHOPAL

**3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> September, 48 teachers, 30 schools**

HECS, INTACH, in collaboration with the INTACH Bhopal Chapter, hosted a dynamic two-day Teacher Training Workshop at the State Museum, Bhopal. Teachers from the Government schools across the city participated in the workshop. The welcome address was given by Ms. Srishti Jain and Mr. Madan Mohan Upadhyaya (Convenor of INTACH Bhopal Chapter), highlighted Madhya Pradesh's rich legacy from prehistoric fossils to Gond tribal culture. Mr. Ramesh Yadav, retired Senior Archaeologist, traced the region's evolution from cave dwellings to the Indus Valley, and explored the architectural and cultural contributions of Gupta rulers, Jainism, Buddhism, and Islamic heritage. Ms. Tultul Vishvas of Eklavya Foundation introduced creative teaching methods using storytelling and tribal art forms like Gond, Bhil, and Warli. Day one concluded with a guided heritage walk through the museum galleries. On day two, Ms. Purnima Datt led an interactive session on heritage types, supported by artefacts and teaching aids. She and Ms. Nanki Kaur showcased HECS resources and digital platforms. Teachers then presented group activity on themes like the Narmada River, Bhojtal, Gond Art, and Gedi Dance.



## NANDYAL

**13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> October, 43 teachers, 33 schools**

HECS, INTACH, in collaboration with the INTACH Nandyal Chapter, conducted a two-day teacher training workshop at Guru Raja English Medium School, Nandyal. Mr. Sivakumar Reddy welcomed attendees, followed by the first session on Nandyal's rich heritage, from Ramayana-era references to Ashokan inscriptions and Vijayanagar architecture presented by Dr. G.S. Ramaiah (life member, INTACH). Mr. K.B. Sethuraman, additional co-convenor Nandyal Chapter spoke about the temples of Nandyal. HECS team members Mr. Abhishek Das and Mr. Deepanshu introduced the four types of heritage and demonstrated classroom strategies through role-play and object study. Day two featured group presentations on themes like Nallamala Forest, Mahanandi Temple, Bamboo Crafts, and Ugadi Festival. HECS team then shared HECS publications and resources to the teachers. The participants were encouraged to integrate heritage education in their lessons and establish heritage clubs in schools. A heritage walk to Mahanandi Temple capped the event.



## MAHANANDISWARA TEMPLE

Located 14 km from Nandyal, the Mahanandiswara Temple in Mahanandi Mandal is a revered pilgrimage site dating back to the 7<sup>th</sup> century A.D. Its most striking feature is the crystal-clear water from perennial springs that flow year-round.

## SIROHI

**30<sup>th</sup> October, 26 teachers, 8 schools**

HECS, INTACH, in collaboration with the INTACH Sirohi Chapter, held a heritage awareness and training workshop at S.P. College. Mr. Ashutosh Patni welcomed participants and introduced INTACH's founding vision. Sessions led by Prof. Badri Vishal and Ms. Madan Lal Mali explored Rajasthan's historical and cultural legacy, including Sirohi's temples and tribal traditions. HECS team members Mr. Abhishek Das and Mr. Deepanshu presented the four types of heritage and discussed classroom integration through teaching aids, role-play, and object studies. Participants engaged in group activities to identify and preserve Sirohi's heritage.



## COLLEGE HERITAGE VOLUNTEER TRAINING WORKSHOPS

(Photos in drive)

### GUWAHATI

**11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> September, 95 students, 12 faculty members, 3 Colleges**

INTACH HECS, in collaboration with INTACH Assam Chapter organized a two-day College Heritage Volunteer Training Workshop, hosted by The Assam Royal Global University. Students and faculty members from three colleges participated. The event was inaugurated by Dr. Susmita Hazarika, with key addresses by Prof. Alak Kumar Buragohain and Prof. Surajit C. Mukhopadhyay. Ms. Purnima Datt (Principi Director, HECS, INTACH) highlighted INTACH's conservation efforts nationwide, while Dr. Sheila Bora (Advisor, RGU) spoke on Assam's rich intangible heritage from oral traditions and weaving to sacred groves and satras. Ms. Vaishnavi led a session on youth engagement through heritage volunteerism. Day two featured site visits to Jorpukhuri, Ugratara Devalaya, Cotton University's archaeological site, and more. Ms. Datt conducted a session on Hands for Heritage and students shared lullabies in native languages. Group presentations were presented on themes like muga silk, Majuli houses, and Brahmaputra traditions.

### GUWAHATI'S HERITAGE

Assam's layered history, including Ahom water systems, early inscriptions, colonial architecture, and archaeological remains. Participants explored Jorpukhuri and Dighalipukhuri ponds, Ugratara Devalaya, an Ahom inscription, North Brooke Gate, Vishnu Janardan Temple, Cotton University archaeological site, and historic neighbourhoods of Pan Bazaar and Uzan Bazaar.



## AHMEDABAD

**8<sup>th</sup> October, 31 Students, 5 faculty members**

INTACH's Heritage Education and Communication Service (HECS), in collaboration with the Centre for Heritage Management and INTACH Ahmedabad Chapter, conducted a College Heritage Volunteer Training Workshop at Ahmedabad University. Students alongside university faculty Mr. Mohit Gupta, Director, Career Development Centre (CDC), Ahmedabad University; Prof. Molly Kaushal, Professor and Director, Centre for Heritage Management; and other university faculty members participated. Ms. Purnima Datt led an insightful session on the fundamentals of heritage. She along with Ms. Christina Shangne also conducted an engaging session on Heritage Volunteering and Action Plans, guiding students on how they can take forward heritage related initiatives within their campuses and communities. Films showcasing INTACH's journey and student projects were screened. Renowned embroiderer Mr. Asif Shaikh highlighted Ahmedabad's textile legacy and the need to preserve authentic craft traditions. Ms. Utpala Desai emphasized youth involvement in conservation efforts. It was a day of learning and inspiration.



## SIROHI

**30<sup>th</sup> October, 36 students, 3 colleges**



HECS, INTACH, in collaboration with the INTACH Sirohi Chapter, held a heritage awareness and training workshop at S.P. College. The event brought together students and members of Bharat Scouts and Guides. Session on volunteerism encouraged college students to take active roles in heritage protection. Participants engaged in group activities to identify and preserve Sirohi's heritage.

## ENDANGERED LIVING HERITAGE- ARTS AND CRAFT AWARENESS WORKSHOPS IN COLLABORATION WITH RESPECTIVE CHAPTERS

### KASHMIR

On 24<sup>th</sup> July 2025, a willow-wicker craft workshop was held at Govt. Boys Higher Secondary School, Soura, Kashmir, where 36 students from nine schools participated. The session was conducted by Mr. Bashir Ahmad, an experienced craftsman, who guided the students through the tools, weaving techniques, and processes involved in the traditional craft.



### DELHI

On 20<sup>th</sup> August 2025, at the Kathika Cultural Centre in Old Delhi, a one-day workshop was conducted by Sh. Irshad Alam Khubi and Sh. Sudhir for 50 students from two Urdu-medium schools, focusing on Qissagoi, Nashtaliq Calligraphy, and Indian Classical Music.



### AYODHYA

On 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> August 2025, at JB Academy in Ayodhya, 77 students from five schools participated in a workshop conducted by Mrs. Kusum Pandey, who guided them through the traditions of Chatoliya craft and Kathari-making.



### SANTINIKETAN

Smt. Ipsa Bandopadhyay led a 2-day workshop on the importance of Macrame craft on 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2025 at Binuria Sumitra Balika Vidyalya, Birbhum. 35 students from 2 schools participated in the workshop. Macrame, the art of knotting cord to create decorative items, originated with 13th-century Arabic weavers who used knots to finish textiles.



### **MANGALURU**

A one-day workshop on traditional basket weaving was conducted by Mr. Shankar Koraga Gutthakadu and Ms. Supriya on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2025 at Government High School, Manchi-Kolnadu, Bantwal Taluk for 50 students from 3 schools. The craft persons provided live demonstrations and guided students in practical training.



### **AMBALA**

A craft workshop was conducted by Ms. Lalita Chopra and Ms. Danisha who encouraged children to make colourful bouquets, festive wall hangings, and learn about Rajasthani music. The workshop was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2025 at Sikh Senior Secondary School, Ambala Cantt, where 60 students from 4 schools participated.



## **BHAGALPUR**

A one day workshop was organised on endangered paintings of the region on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2025 at the Divine Happy School, Bhagalpur. 90 Students from 5 schools were guided to appreciate the dying art and protect the culture.



## **ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLAND**

A Clay moulding workshop was conducted on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2025 at Government Sec. School, Junglighat, Port Blair. The artists taught the 50 students about the importance of clay moulding and the objects that can be made.



## **MURSHIDABAD**

The two day workshop was conducted on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> September at Seva Miloni High School, Khagra, Berhampore by a renowned jute artist Shri Sandip Guin who introduced the students to the techniques of creating art and craft objects using jute ropes of various sizes. 36 students participated in the workshop.



## **DHARAMSHALA**

The craft workshop on the endangered Kangra Miniature Painting was organized on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at Achievers' Hub Senior Secondary School, Dari Dharamshala. Renowned master craftsmen Sh. Mukesh Kumar and Sh. Manu Sharma provided hands-on training to 50 students.



## JAMNAGAR

Curator Dr. Chaudhry organized a workshop on Khadi 20<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at Lakhota Museum, Jamnagar. 80 students from 6 schools wrote messages on Khadi bags about conservation, environment, and India's tangible and intangible heritage.



## NAGALAND

The workshop on bamboo craft was organized on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at NEZCC, Dimapur. It was conducted by craft practitioners of Tuli, Amenla and Atila who introduced the students on traditional bamboo mat making craft. 82 students from 8 schools participated in the workshop.



## BALASORE



The two-day workshop on terracotta craft was organized on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at Balasore Arts & Crafts College, Balasore. The workshop was conducted by Sh. Daitary Behera, Sh. Rajeeb Kumar Barik. 33 students from 7 schools were taught to make eco-friendly idols and objects.

## THRISSUR

The workshop on Kuruthola Craft was organized on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at Kulapathi Munshi Bhavan's Vidyamandir, Pottore, led by artist Navneeth Chero who introduced students to the traditional art of crafting with coconut leaves. 55 students learned to create items such as fish, snakes, olapeepi (leaf whistle), and other decorative elements, showcasing their creativity and skill.



### **GWALIOR**

A one day craft workshop on the dying art of Chitera painting was conducted on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2025 at Simpkin Public School, Gwalior. Hariji Prajapati enlightened middle school students on the art. 89 students from 7 schools participated in the workshop.



## **NATIONAL PROGRAMMES**

### **INTACH NATIONAL HERITAGE QUIZ 2025 - CITY ROUNDS**

#### **AMBALA**

**23<sup>rd</sup> July, BD Sr. Sec. School, Ambala Cantt. 96 students/ 24 schools**



INTACH members and dignitaries graced the occasion. Lt Gen. Ram Pratap (retd), was the Chief Guest. Dr Deshbandhu, a renowned educationist and President of the SD Sabha, and Brig Anand Karve, were the guests of honour. Mrs Madhu Singh was the Quiz Master. Army Public School, Ambala Cantt. stood first.

## YAMUNANAGAR

29<sup>th</sup> July, Sant Nischal Singh Public School, 92 students/8 schools



Yamunanagar Chapter conducted a quiz on July 29 with 46 teams from 8 schools participating. Arnav and Aarav Kalia of Swami Vivekanand Public School, Sector 17, Jagadhri won.

## HISAR

2<sup>nd</sup> August, Palladium School, 112 students/ 12 schools



Khushi & Ojas from O.P Jindal School stood first. Aarav and Devansh from O.P. Jindal came second.

## PANIPAT

28<sup>th</sup> August, MASD School, 70 students/ 6 schools



School Principal Dr. Babita Bhardwaj gave the welcome address. Chairman Mr. Pawan Garg, Convenor, Mr. Suresh Guglani and Co convenor Mrs. Indira Khurana were present. Dyal Singh Public school won the quiz.

## GURGAON

29<sup>th</sup> August, Vedatya Institute, Gurugram, 52 students/ 6 schools



Director Vedatya, Prof. Sandeep Munjal addressed the students emphasizing how the event aimed to set the tone for the competition while celebrating the rich cultural heritage of India. Dr. Parul Munjal was the Quiz Master. Ryan International School Sector 31 emerged as the winners.

## FARIDABAD

**8<sup>th</sup> August, KL Mehta Dayanand Sr Sec School , Sec 16, 136 Students/ 15 Schools**

The quiz was conducted in two phases. Written round was held on an earlier date followed by the oral round on 8<sup>th</sup> August. The team from KL Mehta Dayanand Sr. Sec. School, Sec 16, Faridabad won the final.

## Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar

10<sup>th</sup> October

JN State Museum, Itanagar

62 students/ 11 schools



The Itanagar round of INTACH National Heritage Quiz 2025 was held at JN State Museum in collaboration with Xpressminds. The quiz was attended by Ms. Kari Lombi, Co-convenor INTACH Arunachal Chapter. 11 schools in and around Itanagar participated.

Ms. Mamta Riba, IAS, Secretary, Art and Culture, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh was invited as the Chief Guest. Mr. Chowna Mein, Deputy Chief Minister, Arunachal Pradesh, through his social media handles heaped praise for INTACH for conducting this wonderful quiz and INTACH's sustained efforts towards protecting and highlighting India's rich cultural heritage. He also congratulated the winners of the quiz and wished them luck for the upcoming rounds.

The quiz was conducted by Mr. Akshay Seal, Giogi Kaki and Nabam Raja Paul of St. Francis D'Assisi School, Karsingsa won the quiz.

## **AMRITSAR**

**18<sup>th</sup> August, Delhi Public School, 130 students/ 14 schools**



INTACH Amritsar Chapter successfully organised the City Round of the National Heritage Quiz. Mr. Muhammad Bilal Farooqi, an expert heritage was the quiz master. The event was graced by Mr. Kamal Chand, Principal of Delhi Public School, as the Chief Guest, and noted historian Mr. Surinder Kochhar as the Keynote Speaker. Spring Dale's Saurish Nagpal (Grade IX) and Sehajnoor Kaur (Grade VIII) secured the first position.

## **SANGRUR**

**8<sup>th</sup> October, Gen Gurnam Singh Public School, 140 students/ 11 schools**



The conduct date got changed a number of times in view of school closure and disruptions due to the flood situation. The oral round was conducted by the student quiz master and scorers under the careful supervision of the teachers. After 7 oral rounds the first and second position was attained by the teams of Gen Gurnam Singh Public School.

## **BATHINDA**

**9<sup>th</sup> October, MSD School, 92 students/ 8 schools**



Silver Oaks Public School, Bathinda won First position. For the smooth conduct of the Quiz Intach Members: Er. Ravipal Garg Co-convener, IBC members Sh. Rupinder Singh Sidhu, Sh. Gurdit Singh, Sh. Bakhtawar Singh Sidhu, Principals of these schools and many teachers from these schools devoted their precious time to organize competition.

### **FARIDKOT**

**15<sup>th</sup> October, DCM International School, 100 students/ 10 schools**



Kotkapura won First Position. All participating children and guests were served refreshment or felicitation. For the smooth conduct of the Quiz Intach Members: Er Raj Kr, Aggarwal Co-convener Faridkot, Principal Gurdev Singh, Principal Rakesh Ashoka, Er. Ankush Ashoka, Er. Maninder Singh Dhillon, Mrs. Jaspreet Kaur Brar, Principal Baljeet Singh, Smt Ravneet Kaur, Sh. Ashok Chawla, Sh. Pawan Mittal, Principal Meenakshi Sharma, and many teachers from these schools devoted their precious time to organize competition.

### **MALERKOTLA**

**27<sup>th</sup> October, Al Falah Public Sr. Sec. School, 80 students**



Principal Rehana Naqvi gave the welcome address. Dr. Salim Mohd. Congratulated all the participants. The quiz was won by Tasmiya and Habba Noori of Al Falah Public School.

### **TARN TARAN**

**30<sup>th</sup> October, Majha Public School, 96 students/ 10 schools**



Tarn Taran Chapter conducted Quiz competition on 30 oct at Majha Public School. Total 10 schools participated with 96 students. Guru Nanak Dev Academy team stood first which will participate in the State level competition.

## HOSHIARPUR

4<sup>th</sup> November, Guru Gobind Singh Public School, 76 students/ 7 schools



The event aimed to create awareness among students about the city's glorious past and vibrant culture. Team Guru Gobind Singh Public School emerged champions, securing the first position. Principal Harjit Singh congratulated the winners and appreciated all participants for their spirited involvement. The event inspired students to stay connected with their roots and take pride in the heritage of Hoshiarpur.

## KAPURTHALA

MGN School, 82 students/ 8 schools



Kapurthala chapter conducted Quiz competition wherein 8 schools participated with strength of 82. The competition was held at MGN, Kapurthala .

## PATIALA



**Government Multipurpose Senior Secondary School, 62 students/ 7 schools**

Quiz Masters Parmveer Singh and Haspreet Kaur conducted the event successfully in presence of Sarbjit Singh Virk Advocate Convenor of Patiala Chapter. The team of The British Co-Ed High School stood first.

Adv. Jatinder Singh Sarao, Heritage activist, thanked the students, teachers, guests, Principals and staff of the schools who all made the programme a success.

## FEROZEPUR

DCM International School, 80 students



INTACH Ferozpur Chapter under the guidance of its dynamic convener Dr Anirudh Gupta, conducted the National Heritage Quiz -2025 at DCM International School in Ferozpur city. Around 80 students from various schools participated in this wonderful event. The winners will go ahead for the State Level Championship

### **VARANASI**

**19<sup>th</sup> August, The Aryan International School**

Mr. Arihan and Mr. Aditya of Sunbeam School, Bhagwanpur won the quiz.

### **AYODHYA**

**24<sup>th</sup> August, J B Academy, 150 students/ 15 schools**



The event was organized under the guidance of Ms. Anuja Srivastava. Dr. Indroneel Banerjee, Co-Convener of the Ayodhya Chapter was the quiz master for the day. Chapter Convener, Mrs. Manjula Jhunjhunwala, welcomed the guests, participants, and teachers-in-charge. Army Public School emerged as the winners of the quiz.

### **GORAKHPUR**

**24<sup>th</sup> August, Mahatma Gandhi Inter College, 92 students/ 9 schools**



Welcome address was given by Mr. Achintya Lahiri co-convener. Dr. Ravindra Anand head of department of history, St Andrews post graduate College was invited to give address to students on heritage. The team of H.P.Children academy was declared winners. Members of INTACH, teachers and guardians were present and they appreciated the way in which awareness about heritage being done by INTACH.

## MAHOBA

29<sup>th</sup> August, 100 students



Ayushman Sharma and Arjit Paliwal of Gyansthal Public School. They will participate for the state round to be held in Lucknow.

## LUCKNOW

30<sup>th</sup> August, La Martiniere College, Lucknow, 82 students/ 21 schools



This year's event in Lucknow commenced with a written preliminary round. The city final featured six exciting rounds. After a fiercely contested quiz, the winners were declared and felicitated by the distinguished Chief Guest, Mr. Mukesh Meshram, Principal Secretary, Tourism and Culture, Government of Uttar Pradesh. The prize distribution was also graced by Mr. Gary Dominic Everett, Principal, La Martiniere College, Lucknow, the quiz masters

Ms Surabhi Modi Sahai and Mr Aditya Wakhlu of CLAT Possible, and INTACH members Mr. N.K.S. Chauhan, Prof. Sumna Varshney, Ms. Kanak Rekha Chauhan, Dr. Neetu Agarwal (Convener) and Mr Dhanunjay Varshney (Co-Convener).

## KANPUR

3<sup>rd</sup> September, United Public School



Sparsh Bharadwaj and Vinayak Shukla of Puranchandra Vidya Niketan won the quiz.

## ALLAHABAD

12<sup>th</sup> September, Delhi Public School, Naini, 106 students

The event celebrated India's rich cultural heritage while inspiring young minds to preserve it. After an intense final round, the First Prize went to Bhavya Pandey and Ansh Yadav from Patanjali Rishikul School. Quiz Master Dr. Divya Bartria, and the Guests of Honor Colonel Parag Bhargava and Dr. Ritu Jaiswal set the tone. Dr. Ritu Jaiswal spoke about the importance of community participation in heritage conservation. A short presentation on INTACH's mission and achievements was also shared by Mr Vaibhav Maini.

## KOTDWAR

**23<sup>rd</sup> August, Hayde Heritage Academy, 102 students/ 11 schools**



Chief Guest Shri. Sohan Saini (SDM), Kotdwar offered valuable suggestions, including involving education officers in future programme to ensure wider participation of government schools. Guest of Honour was Shri. Yogendra Prakash Gilra, a Chartered Engineer and Fellow of the Institution of Valuers, A small exhibition “Kotdwar through the Lenses” was designed using his collection of old photographs of Kotdwar City, and he delivered a talk and addressed the students during the event.

## MUSSOORIE

**20<sup>th</sup> September, Mahatama Yogeshwar Saraswati Sishu Vidya Mandir, 64 students**

Oak Grove School, Mussoorie bagged the first prize. Wynberg Allen School and St Clare’s Convent School got second and third prize respectively. The chief guest of the day was Mrs. Alpana Pant Sharma retired IFS officer. The co-convenor of INTACH, Mussoorie Chapter, Surbhi Agarwal reiterated the need to develop the understanding and concern for heritage and its conservation.

## BELAGAVI

**25<sup>th</sup> August, Bharatesh Education Trust Campus, 70 students/ 6 schools**



The first written round led to the 4 teams to the final stage round. Quizmaster Swatee Jog grilled the students in a fun and exhilarating final round using Audio Visual mode. Prasanna Allayyanavarmath and YashDharmoiji from Bharatesh English Medium School emerged winners with the highest marks in the 3 rounds of the finals. Belagavi Chapter Convener Vinod Doddanavar, Co-conveners Swatee Jog and Kishor Kakade gave away the prizes.

## BIJAPUR

**30<sup>th</sup> August, BLDEA DR PG Halakatti Research Centre, 86 students/ 10 schools**



Shri Arun Inamdar, VC of BM Patil University inaugurated the function. Prithvi Karjinagi and Anupriya R Kulkarni from B M Patil School bagged the first prize. Dr. V D Aiholli conducted the quiz.

### **GULBARGA**

**30<sup>th</sup> August, Vivekanand Vidya Niketan School, 50 students/7 schools**



Sri. Siddappa Bhagawati, Principal V.V.N. School inaugurated the event. Sri. S.S. Kellur, Professor (Retd) History, S.B. College of Arts, Kalaburagi was Chief Guest; Dr. S.S. Wani Convenor INTACH Kalaburagi presided over the function. The Quiz was conducted by Quiz master. Dr. S. Reddy and Prof. C.S. Anandi. First prize was won by Krishna team (V.V.N. School)

### **SANTINIKETAN**

**16<sup>th</sup> July, Dwarka High School, 34 students/ 10 schools**



The program began with a warm welcome by the Headmaster, Dr. Banibrata Mondal, and the teachers of the host school. The quiz was conducted by Quiz Masters Srimati Lopamudra Sen and Shree Tarit Roychoudhury. Jaydeep Mondal and Jyotirmoy Ghosh of Labpur Jadablal High School won.

### **MURSHIDABAD**

**19<sup>th</sup> August, Students Health Home Berhampore, 18 schools**



The quiz was done in two stages: written and oral. Sargachhi RKM school stood first with JN Academy and Gokarna PM High School being declared joint second.

## **KOLKATA**

**30<sup>th</sup> October, Apeejay School, Park Street, 38 students/ 7 schools**



The programme was inaugurated with a welcome address by Paromita Guha Roy, Principal, Apeejay School Park Street. The quiz was conducted by quizmaster Smita Mehta, member of INTACH, Calcutta Chapter over 1 written round and 4 verbal rounds. Garden High School won the City Level of the quiz and qualified to represent INTACH Calcutta Chapter at the State Level.

## **KANGRA**

**15<sup>th</sup> October, Montessori Cambridge School, 90 students/ 9 schools**



Principal of host school Mrs. Meghna Mahajan was the Chief Guest. Convenor, Mr. L N Aggarwal briefed the students. Bhavna and Vanika from Montessori Cambridge won the quiz.

## **MANDI**

**11<sup>th</sup> October, Govt. Bijai Sr. Sec. School, 110 students/ 12 schools**

Dy. Mayor Smt. Madhuri Kapoor was invited as the Chief Guest. Convenor Mr. Naresh Malhotra spoke about preserving natural heritage. The team of Inayat and Aayush of Swami Vivekanand Sr. Sec. School won the quiz.

## **PATNA**

**23<sup>rd</sup> August, Buddha Smriti Park Museum, Patna, 120 students/30 schools**



The programme was inaugurated by the Convenor Mr. Bhairab Lal Das. He highlighted the unique cultural and natural heritage of Bihar. Khanak Verma and Reyaans of Delhi Public School, Patna secured first position at the city level.

## **BHAGALPUR**

**30<sup>th</sup> August, St. Paul's School, Nathnagar, Bhagalpur, 54 students**

The quiz was inaugurated by the Convenor Dr. K. D. Prabhat, Co-convenor Dr. Basil Quadros, Additional Co-convenor Dr. Wibhu Kumar Roy, and the Quiz Master Mr. Kaushal Kishor Singh. Dr. Roy explained the methodology of the quiz. The quiz was conducted in two stages- first round with 20 objective questions and second round with first four teams selected from the written round.

## **PURNEA**

**30<sup>th</sup> August, Vidya Vihar Residential School, Parora, 186 students/18 schools**

The programme began with lighting the lamp by ADM Mr. Raj Kumar Gupta and a welcome speech by Dr. Raman Kumar Soni, Additional Co-convenor of Purnea chapter. Mr. Samiran Mondal was invited as the quiz master. After going through the written and the oral round of the quiz Sabal Kumar and Darshil of Vidya Vihar Residential School, Parora stood at the first position.

## **MAHASAMUND**

**25<sup>th</sup> July, Navikaran Academy, 110 students/11 schools**

After the written and oral rounds of the quiz, Aman Yadav and Naman Sahu of Vrindavan Vidyalaya emerged as the winning team.

## **RAIPUR**

**1<sup>st</sup> August, Lakshminarayan Girls Hr. Sec. School, Kalibadi Road, 88 students/11 schools**



The event began at 9:00 AM with the registration of the students. After the written and the oral round Virendra Nidhad and Khilesh Manikpuri of Prof. J. N. Pandey Govt. M. A. U. H. M. S. School emerged as the winning team. At the end of the programme, all the participating students were given certificates.

## **BILASPUR**

**20<sup>th</sup> August, Deokinandan Girls Hr. Sec. School, 129 students/16 schools**

INTACH Bilaspur Chapter organised the city round of the quiz with the help of HECS division.

## **GAURELLA PENDRA MARWAHI**

**23<sup>rd</sup> August, S. S. College of Education, 130 students/11 schools**

The programme began with registration of students at 10:30 AM. 65 teams of students began the quiz with a written round. After the oral round, Kaustubh Shukla and Khushnuma of Swami Atamanand English Medium School secured the first position. All the students were given a participation certificate by the esteemed guests.

## **SARAIPALI**

**3<sup>rd</sup> September, SAGES Saraipali & St. Vincent Pallotti School, 256 students/38 schools**



The written round was conducted at SAJES Saraipali and St. Vincent Pallotti Higher Secondary School, Kutela, while the oral round was held at St. Vincent Pallotti School. Winners were awarded certificates of merit, and all participants were treated to refreshments and snacks. Adarsh Sahu and Ku. Somya Panda of St. Vincent Pallotti H. S. S. Kutela became the winners of the city round.

## **KOREA**

**29<sup>th</sup> September , Delhi World Public School, 8 schools**



Chief Guest Mr. Sidar highlighted the importance of protecting and conserving heritage and archaeological sites, sharing his personal experience. The event concluded with an address by Dr. Basant Tiwari, Principal of the host school. Co-Convener Dr. Vinod Pandey expressed gratitude to the guests, participating schools, teachers, students, and the staff. Universal Public Higher Secondary School, Manendragarh, represented by students Somnath and Shahista Parveen emerged as the winner

## **BALANGIR**

**27<sup>th</sup> July, 65 students/9 schools**



Sanvi Nayak and Sarbesh Meher of IDM Public School got the First prize

## **BALASORE**

**17<sup>th</sup> August, Siddhi Vinayak Public School, 90 students/9 schools**



The INTACH Balasore Chapter conducted the City Round of the India Heritage Quiz 2025 at Siddhi Vinayak Public School, Balasore. Participants from various schools took part in written and oral rounds conducted by Quiz Master Mr. V. Uday Kumar. Winners were declared, and certificates are enclosed with the report. Dyutidipta Nayak & Tathastu Tathagat Das of D. A. V. Public School became winners.

## **MAYURBHANJ**

**24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> August, M. P. K. Govt. Girls High School, Baripada, 137 participants/12 schools**

The programme was inaugurated by Convenor Maj. Rabindra Nath Parida by highlighting the importance of promoting our cultural heritage. The event was hosted in presence of chapter members. Bhagyashree Das and Dibyanshu Chouhand of Odisha Adarsh Vidyalaya, Ranibhol became the winning team.

## **BHILWARA**

**21<sup>st</sup> August, Govt. Senior Secondary School, Bhilwara, 76 students/8 schools**

The programme began at 11:00 AM with registration of students. Due to heavy rains, lesser number of students participated than expected. After written, oral and buzzer rounds, Aditi Gaggar and Jinisha Jain of Maheshwari Public School became the winners.

## **ALWAR**

**28<sup>th</sup> August, Shri Agarwal Mahasabha Bhawan, 73 students/7 schools**



The city round of Alwar's INTACH quiz was attended by chief guest Rajesh Lavaniya and guests Anil Singha, Rakesh Bansal and Suman Yadav. Convenor Mrs. Sunita Mittla talked about the importance of different forms of heritage to the students. Tanmay Kumar Meena and Pradeep Kumar Yadav of Bal Bharti Scheme-8 became the winning team. The winners were felicitated by the guests.

## **BARMER**

**29<sup>th</sup> August, Mahatma Gandhi Government School, Housing Board, Balotra, 98 students/10 schools**



The quiz began with a welcome session by the Convenor Mr. Rawal Kishan Singh Jasol by urging the students to work towards conserving the ancient heritage, art and culture of our country. Distinguished were present for the quiz. In the end, Vanshika and Jaishree of MGGS became the winners of the city round.

## **SIROHI**

**6<sup>th</sup> September, Ajit Vidya Mandir, 84 students/10 schools**

The quiz was conducted in two phases, as prescribed- written and oral rounds. In the end, first position was secured by Kirti Chouhan and Sushil Ghanchi of Ajit Vidya Mandir. The winners were felicitated with certificated and prizes.

## **JODHPUR**

**12<sup>th</sup> September, Konark Sr. Sec. School, Pratap Nagar, 97 students/7 schools**



The city round of INTACH National Heritage Quiz was organised by INTACH Jodhpur Chapter. The members of the chapter were welcomed by the school. The students were given time to solve a question paper as the written round. Then an oral round was conducted. Mrs. Vimlesh Rathore was the quiz master.

## **JAISALMER**

**18<sup>th</sup> September, R. K. S. Public Sr. Sec. School and Vinayak Pre School, 121 students/2 schools**



The event saw the presence of Mr. RoorpramDhandev, ex-MLA, Mr. AmardeenFakeer, Head of Panchayat Samiti, and Mr. Harivallabh, Chairman Nagar Nigam. Following the written and the oral round, Dharamveer Mahipal and LokendraFakeer of R.K. S. Sr. Public School became the winners.

## **KARAULI**

**20<sup>th</sup> September, Bhanwar Villas Marriage Garden, 130 students/13 schools**

The quiz began with the registration of the students. The event was graced by Chief Guest Mr. Devi Singh Rampura and Special Guest Mahararani Rohini Kumari and the Convenor Maharana Krishna Chandra Pal. In the quiz, after written and oral rounds, Ishant Chaturvedi and Purvi Chaturvedi of Lokhitkari Sr. Sec. School emerged winners. The winners were felicitated by the guests.

## **AJMER**

**28<sup>th</sup> September, Turning Point School, 72 students/11 schools**



The INTACH Quiz organised by Alwar Chapter was graced by the presence of the chief guest, Mr. NeerajTripathi, Superintendent, Archives and Museum Department, said that it is the responsibility of the younger generation to preserve our heritage, which is scattered across the

country and needs protection. After the written and oral rounds, VishakTilokaniandNaman Raj, Class 11 students of All Saints School, were declared winners.

### **BEAWAR**

**Govt. Patel Senior Secondary School, 148 students/16 schools**



The quiz was conducted according to the prescribed format. After the written and the oral round, Anvi Agrawal and Tamanna of Bangad Public School secured the first position. Winners were felicitated with certificates and prizes by Co-Convenor Shyam Sharma, Principal Man Singh Chauhan, and members Kalpana Bhatnagar and Ishan Kumawat.

### **BURHANPUR**

**6<sup>th</sup> August, R. S. E. T. Institution, 88 students**

The guests of the events motivated the students and steered them in the right direction to protect our heritage. They emphasised on taking the heritage awareness to the grassroot levels of our country. After the quiz, K. DipaliKhushwaha and K. Anita Gadariyan of Jaunabaddistt. became the winners of the quiz. They were felicitated with prizes and certificates.

### **JABALPUR**

**25<sup>th</sup> August, St. Xavier's School, 500 students/10 schools**

The quiz was graced by the presence of Mr. Arvind Yadav, Joint Commissioner and Mr. Sanjeev Choudhary, Chief Editor NDTV. Ms. Roopali Sharma, PGT at Spring Day Higher Sec. School was the judge for the quiz. Ms. Sharma motivated students and appreciated INTACH for this appreciable event. Aryansh Soni and Riddhima Tiwari of Joy Sr. Sec. School secured the first position.

### **KATNI**

**30<sup>th</sup> August, 92 students/8 schools**

Divyanshu Raj and MugdhamPanjwani became the winners.

### **KHANDWA**

**30<sup>th</sup> August, New Way Coaching premises, 64 students/7 schools**



Khandwa Chapter organised the quiz for 32 teams of students. Written round was conducted in which students had to attempt 20 questions in 30 minutes. From the written round 4 best teams were selected for the oral round. Geetanjali Solanki and Vani Sharma from St. Jones Convent

Higher Secondary School stood the first position. The winners were felicitated with prizes and certificates.

## **GWALIOR**

**6<sup>th</sup> September, Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya, 188 students/11 schools**



The event began with a written round for all the students. After this 4 teams were selected for the oral round. Mr. Vikas Singh, Convener, INTACH Gwalior Chapter, Mr. Chandradeep Singh Tomer, Co-Convener, INTACH Gwalior Chapter, Mr. Neelkamal Maheshwari and Mr. Rajeev Tomar, Governing Council Members, INTACH were present for the quiz. Sajal Chaturvedi and Ashnendra Gubrele of Gwalior Glory High School emerged as the winners of the quiz.

## **MORENA**

**9<sup>th</sup> September, Amar Shahid P. Ramprasad Bismil Archaeological Museum, 60 students/8 schools**



The quiz was organised by Morena chapter on 9th September with guidelines from HECS. Written round was conducted for all the students, out of which top 4 teams were selected for the oral round. Sarojini Vidya Niketan's Swati Rathore and Krishna Tomar became the winning team.

## **DATIA**

**16<sup>th</sup> September, 75 students/5 schools**

The quiz was conducted by Quiz Master Mr. Shyam Sharma and coordinated by Mrs. Rani Thakur. Valuable support in managing the timer and rounds was provided by Mr. Rajendra Rathore, Ms. Tisha Thakur, Ms. Reena Rathore, and Ms. Yogita Devda. Mayank Nalvaya and Mohammad Zubair from Government Excellence School stood first in the quiz.

## **MANDLA**

**23<sup>rd</sup> August & 29<sup>th</sup> September, Gyandeeep Sr. Sec. English Medium School, 10 schools/100 students**



The written round of the quiz was done separately in each school. The second round of the INTACH Heritage Quiz was held at Gyandeeep Senior Secondary English Medium School, Mandla. Teams from four schools participated enthusiastically. Nirmala Senior Secondary School won and qualified for the state level. The event was graced by educationists and environmentalist Rajesh Chhatri, who expressed gratitude.

### **DIMAPUR, NAGALAND**

**22<sup>nd</sup> August, Dimapur LothaHoho Ki, 62 students/6 schools**



The quiz began registration at 9:30 AM. After this a short on the impact of plastic and natural heritage was delivered by Life Member ThangiMannen. The teams began with the written round, after which 4 teams moved to the oral round. Akangjungshi A. Jamir and Daulen M. Phom of Hollotoli School became the winners.

### **SRINAGAR**

**9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> September, Govt. Boys Hr. Sec. School, Soura, 68 students/10 school**

Students competed in the written round in groups/teams each of two students. Based on performance, four teams, each consisting of two students, qualified for the next stage. At the end of the oral round, the result was declared and certificates and prizes were given to each student encouraging their participation.

### **AIZAWL, MIZORAM**

**25<sup>th</sup> September, Conference Hall, Directorate of School Education, 36 students/18 school**

The programme was chaired by Ms. Rosy LalfakzualiSailo, Deputy Director of Administration. She recalled the close association between the Education Department and the Mizoram Chapter. Guest of Honour Mr. Chawngkunga, a Mizo Historian exhorted students to uphold Mizo values

and principles. After the quiz, Helen Lainunmawii and M. S. Dawngzela of Govt. Mizo High School secured the first position.

## **DELHI**

**9<sup>th</sup> October, India International Centre, 212 students/61 schools**



The event began with a welcome address by Ms. Purnima Datt, Principal Director, HECS. INTACH's Member-Secretary Mr. Ravindra Singh (Retd. IAS) also shared words of encouragement to the students. Mr. Kunal Savarkar, from Xpressminds Edutainment welcomed the students and made the students familiar with the quiz. He was the quiz master for the day supported by his team.

The quiz began with the written round for all the teams. The qualifying teams for the oral round were - Delhi Public School, Dwarka; Delhi Public School,

Greater Noida; Vasant Valley School; Bal Bharati Public School, Pitampura; Delhi Public School, R. K. Puram, and Birla Vidya Niketan.

During the oral round, Chief Guest, Mr. K N Srivastava, Director, India International addressed the students. Mr. Srivastava congratulated INTACH for organizing the event in a wonderful manner. He encouraged the students to take part in such activities to learn about the vast heritage of the country. INTACH Chairman, Mr. Ashok Singh Thakur at the end of the oral round, also wished the students the best. Delhi Public School, Greater Noida secured the first position. The day ended with prizes and certificate distribution to the winners and the participants.

## **CALICUT**

**5<sup>th</sup> August, 106 students/13 schools, Sri Gujrati Vidhyalaya, Kozhikode**

The Quiz was held by INTACH-Calicut chapter. 53 Teams participated in the written round followed by 4 teams making it to the final round which was a visual quiz. Shreeya Thilak M. and Veda Baiju from Vedavyasa Vidyalayam won the first prize and will be heading to the state round.

## **THRISSUR**

**28<sup>th</sup> August, State Museum, 6 schools/ 20+ students**

INTACH Thrissur Chapter organized a Heritage Quiz on 28<sup>th</sup> Aug 2025 in association with the Museum & Zoo department at the State Museum of Kerala for school students of Thrissur district. Salabha T.G (quiz master), Anil Sir (Superintend Museum & Zoo), Vinod Kumar M M (INTACH Convenor), Dr P.S Easa (EC Member), Ar Athira (Co-ordinator), Punnya, Vinayak and Krishna (Volunteers) organised the competition. Nandakishore K S, Sreehari C Nair from Bhartiya Vidya Bhavans Irinjalakuda won the district level competition.

## **KOCHI**

**29<sup>th</sup> October, Kerala Museum, 66 Students/ 16 Schools**

INTACH HECS in collaboration with INTACH Cochin Chapter & Kerala Museum conducted the INTACH Heritage Quiz 2025 Cochin City Round at Kerala Museum. 33 Teams Participated

in the Quiz program conducted by Dr. Akshay Subramnian. Preliminary Elimination was a written round. Top 6 teams competed in the final audio-visual interactive dynamic rounds. Niranjana Sekhar A. and Keerthana Krishnamohan from Bhavans Vidya Mandir Elamakkara won the first prize and will be heading to the state round.

## **KASARGOD**

**12<sup>th</sup> August, 10<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> September**

**GHSS Kanhangad South, Hosdurg Kanhangad and Rajas Higher Secondary School**



The INTACH Kasargod Chapter successfully organized a series of Heritage Quiz Competitions across three schools in the district during August and September 2025. The final round was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September at Rajas Higher Secondary School, Nileshwaram, where 92 students participated. It was conducted by Ms. Rajitha V.M. and Mr. Vyshak K., and appreciated by the school's Principal. Muhammed P and Amith K of G.H.S.S.HOSDURG were selected to represent the

Kasaragod Chapter in the State Round.

## **PALAKKAD**

**1<sup>st</sup> November, ASI Hall, Palakkad Fort, 19 schools/132 students**

The INTACH Heritage Quiz - Palakkad City Rounds was held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2025 at the ASI Hall inside Palakkad Fort, with 132 students from 19 schools. The event, supported by Malayala Manorama's Nallapaadam initiative, began with registration and a written qualifying round of 20 questions, followed by oral semi-final and final pursuit rounds. The quiz, conducted by Quizmaster Arun Narayan, featured six engaging rounds including visuals, clues, and buzzer rounds on topics from local to national heritage. Aathmika N.S. and Veda M.C. (Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Tattamangalam) won first place. The winners received trophies, books, and HECS publications.

## **THANJAVUR**

**30<sup>th</sup> July, Little Scholars Matric Hr. Sec. School, Thanjavur, 226 students/8 schools**



The INTACH Thanjavur Chapter conducted the National Heritage Quiz 2025 on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2025. The event began with a welcome address by Dr. A.V. Natanasigamani, Correspondent and Life Member. Prof. Dr. B. Sheela from Tamil University, served as the special speaker. The written round was followed by a final oral round conducted by Quiz Master Sri N. Selvaraj. Sri K. Swaminathan, Coordinator of Heritage Clubs, delivered the vote of thanks. The City Level Winners were P. Viswanthan and Ba. Prithiv from Blossom Public School, Thanjavur.

## **CHENNAI**

**23<sup>rd</sup> August, Sri Sankara Vidyashramam School, 66 teams from 20 schools**

The Chennai Round of the India Heritage Quiz 2025 was held on 23rd August at Sri Sankara Vidyashramam School, Thiruvannamiyur, organised by HECS INTACH, Chennai Chapter. The quiz was conducted by senior INTACH member and quizmaster Ms. Susha Natraj. Sixty-six teams from twenty schools participated in the preliminary round, and five teams qualified for the finals. Anirudh Prem and Prabhav Nandan R. from PSBB Millennium School, Gerugambakkam emerged as winners and will represent Chennai at the Tamil Nadu State Finals.

## KODAIKANAL

**26<sup>th</sup> August, Zion School, 98 students/ 9 schools**



The INTACH Kodaikanal Chapter organised the National Heritage Quiz. The top five teams in the written round qualified for the final oral round. The quiz was coordinated by chapter members Banu, Zarreen, and Reena. Guest speaker Mr. Suresh Kumar, a Silambam instructor, spoke on the history of this Tamil martial art. Jeanna Vargheese and Hasini D from Bhavan's Gandhi Vidyashram, Kodaikanal secured the first prize.

## SALEM

**28<sup>th</sup> August, Sri Vidya Mandir School Auditorium, 102 students/11 schools**



The Heritage Quiz 2025 City Round for the INTACH Salem Chapter was held on 28th August 2025 at Sri Vidya Mandir School Auditorium. Dr. Yuvashri, noted for her work in children's welfare, was the Chief Guest. The event began with registration, followed by the written round at. During a short break. After resolving tie-breakers, four top-scoring teams advanced to the oral rounds. The team from Sri Vidhya Bharathi M.H.S.S, represented by R. Raja Murugan and Y. Vinith, performed commendably.

## COIMBATORE

**1<sup>st</sup> September, Vivekalaya's Vichara World School, 258 students/15 schools**

The Heritage Education and Communication Service of INTACH organised the National Heritage Quiz in the presence of Mr. Jaganathan S. (Convener), Mr. Satish Santanam (Co-convener), Mr. Ramachandra Prasad (Former Convenor), Ms. Aishwarya Rao (Director, Vivekalaya Group of Institutions), and other INTACH members. Mr. Sheilendra Bhansal, from INTACH Coimbatore Chapter, served as the Quiz Master. The event began with a written round

followed by a rapid-fire final using professional buzzers. Gaurav Agarwal and Ishan Jain from Yuva Bharathi School emerged as the winners.

### **VISAKHAPATNAM**

**1<sup>st</sup> August, Alwardas Public School, MVP Colony, Visakhapatnam, 208 students/ 23 schools**



The Visakhapatnam City Level INTACH Heritage Quiz 2025 was held on 1st August 2025, in the presence of the Co-Convenor and members of the INTACH Visakhapatnam Chapter. The top four teams qualified for the final oral round. Navy Children School, represented by Ishaan Gupta and Ishita Gupta, emerged as winners.

### **SRIKAKULAM**

**30<sup>th</sup> August, Vikas School, Srikakulam, 52 students/ 12 schools**

INTACH Srikakulam Chapter organised a Heritage Quiz Competition on 30th August 2025 at Vikas School, Srikakulam. Mrs. Jagannadha Naidu, Co-convenor, served as the Quiz Master and Sri. N. Sanyasi Rao facilitated the process and chaired the programme.. The event saw active participation and enthusiastic responses from students. Guests Sri K.V.G. Radha Prasad, Sri Natukula Mohan, and Sri V. Jaganadha Naidu appreciated INTACH's efforts in promoting heritage awareness among youth. The first prize was won by Yaswanth and B Rakshith from Oxford School.

### **GUNTUR**

**3<sup>rd</sup> September, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan School, Guntur, 56 students/ 14 schools**



The INTACH Guntur Chapter conducted the National Heritage Quiz 2025 at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan School, Guntur. The quiz was conducted by Quizmaster Dr. A. Rajasekhar. The event was graced by Mr. P. Ramachandra Raju, Secretary of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, along with INTACH members A. Venugopal, S. Vijaykumar, B. Srinivas, and K. Sita Ramesh. The winners were Sk. Javed Abrar and Sk. Naveed from St. Laurels Public School, who will represent Guntur in the State Level Round.

### **MACHILIPATNAM**

**2<sup>nd</sup> November, Little Flower English Medium High School, Rajupet, Machilipatnam**



The District Level INTACH Heritage Quiz Competition was held on 2nd November. Fourteen teams from different high schools participated. The event began with a written test followed by an oral quiz of seven. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Udattu Srinivasa Rao, Prabhakar Rao, Yenduri Venkata Sudha, and Karumuri Rajendra Prasad. Sree Balajee Vidyalayam, represented by G. Harsha Vardhini and K. Raaga Srujana, secured first place and will represent the district at the state-level competition in

## **ANANTAPUR**

**3<sup>rd</sup> November Government Degree College, Anantapur, 6 schools**



The INTACH Anantapur Chapter conducted the National Heritage Quiz 2025. The event was graced by Retired District Educational Officer Shri Kasim Sahab, along with members of INTACH Anantapur Chapter. The competition consisted of two rounds – a written round with 20 questions, followed by an oral round for the top four teams. Winners were awarded certificates and prizes in recognition of their performance. Y. Midhun Kumar and G. Bharath Rathore-Rotary English medium School secured the first rank.

## **MAHBUBNAGAR**

**25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> August, Gandhi Hall, Government B.Ed College, Mahabubnagar.**

**742 students/ 103 schools**

The INTACH Mahabubnagar Chapter organised the Heritage Quiz 2025 across 17 mandals, covering 270 government and upper primary schools. The written rounds were conducted in three phases. Each mandal's top team qualified for the District (City) Round, The event was coordinated by Dr. T. Nagender Swamy and INTACH members with volunteer support. Mr. T. Sridhar served as Quiz Master for the oral round. The winning team D. evendhar Goud and G. Vikas from MJPTBCWREIS/ Jadcherla will represent Mahabubnagar at the State Level Quiz.

## JAMSHEDPUR

9<sup>th</sup> October, Jusco School, Kadma, 70 students/ 7 schools



The INTACH Heritage Quiz City Round was successfully organised by the INTACH Jamshedpur Chapter. The quiz, conducted in four phases – Written Test, Visual Round, Audio-Visual Round, and Rapid Fire Round. The event was led by Mr. Amitava Ghosh, Convener, INTACH Jamshedpur Chapter, who highlighted the importance of heritage conservation and student involvement.

Asmitha Thakur and Anindo Purkait from Kerala Public School, Kadma won first place and will represent Jamshedpur at the State-Level Quiz in Ranchi.

## NAGPUR

20<sup>th</sup> August, Smt. Manoramabai Mundle College of Architecture, Seminary Hills

175 students /18 schools



The INTACH Nagpur Chapter hosted the Inter-City Heritage Quiz 2025. The event was held under the guidance of Dr. Madhura Rathod (Governing Council Member, INTACH New Delhi) and Mr. Manoj Jain (Co-Convenor, INTACH Nagpur Chapter). Quizmaster Mr. Anup Manchalwar conducted the session. Aaditya Rajurkar and Namman Tripathi of Bhavan's Trimurti Nagar won the school category

## BARAMATI

21<sup>st</sup> August 2025, Vidya Pratishthan's, School of Architecture, Baramati, 42 Students /11 schools

The INTACH India Heritage Quiz 2025 was held for the first time in Baramati. The written round consisted of 20 questions to be completed in 30 minutes, after which volunteers checked the papers. Mr. Piyush Shaha, spoke about India's heritage, traditions, and the importance of heritage awareness. The event was coordinated by Dr. Seemantini Chaphalkar, who later discussed the question paper and announced the results. Principal Mr. Rajshree Patil distributed certificates of participation and appreciated the students' enthusiasm. Pranjali Pravin Ghorpade and Shivendra Ganesh Jadhav of VP English Medium CBSE School secured the first rank.

## NASHIK

**22<sup>nd</sup> August, Meena Bhujbal School of Excellence, 170 students/ 14 schools**



The much-awaited INTACH Heritage Quiz 2025 was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> August at Meena Bhujbal School of Excellence, MET Adgaon campus, with MBSE as the venue partner. The event saw enthusiastic participation from 170 students representing 14 schools across Nashik and nearby districts. After intense written and oral rounds, SKD International School, Deola, emerged winners for the second consecutive year, represented by Avishkar Pawar and Ameya Nikam, both from Std. 10.

## WAI PANCHGANI

**23<sup>rd</sup> August 2025, Kalpataru Mangal Karyalaya, Wai, 96 students/ 9 schools**



The INTACH India Heritage Quiz was successfully held in Wai from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Mr. Aditya Chounde was the Chief Guest for the event. The quiz comprised a written round of 20 questions followed by an oral final round. Six teams qualified for the finals, from which Gargee Kamalakar Dere and Sohana Sahalam Molla were selected to represent Wai at the State-level competition.

## AMRAVATI

**10<sup>th</sup> September 2025, Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Memorial Science and Innovation Centre  
99 students /12 schools**

The INTACH Inter-School Heritage Quiz 2025 was successfully organised by the INTACH Amravati Chapter in association with Shri Shivaji Science College. The event was inaugurated by Chief Guest Prof. Dr. Pankaj Nagpure and chaired by Convener Dr. Jayant Wadatkar. Life Members Prof. Dr. Manish Gaikwad and Dr. Aniruddh Deshmukh were present, and Mr. Anup Manchalwar served as Quizmaster. The quiz included a written preliminary and an audio-visual final round covering themes of history, art, culture, and heritage. Smayan Laddha and Pranav Patil from Podar International School, Amravati, secured the first rank.

## SOLAPUR

**22<sup>nd</sup> September, S P M English Medium School, Solapur, 64 students/ 17schools**



The INTACH India Heritage Quiz was organised by the INTACH Solapur Chapter. The event was convened by Dr. Narendra Katikar and Co-Convenor Ar. Shveta Kothavale, who also served as the Quizmaster. Mrs. Madhuri Gaikwad, and Mr. Hampe were the Chief Guests. The quiz comprised two rounds – a written preliminary round and an oral final round. Ms. Anushka Amol Gaikwad and Master Sujay Mohan Hajare from Late V. M. Mehta High School emerged winners. The event received wide coverage in local newspapers and digital media.

## JAMNAGAR

19<sup>th</sup> August 2025, Heritage Hotel Aram Crystal Banquet Hall, Jamnagar, 72 students/ 6 schools



Jamnagar Round, was held, at one of the city's oldest heritage landmarks. Convener Mr. Suren welcomed the gathering and shared an insightful history of the hotel. The written round began at 10:30 a.m., followed by evaluations. The top-scoring teams entered three rounds of oral and rapid-fire questions, with five tie-breakers determining the finalists. After an intense contest, Asmitaba Parmar and Darshan Sonchhatra from SSSV Gujarati Medium School emerged as the winners and will represent Jamnagar at the State Level Quiz in Gujarat.

## RAJKOT

4<sup>th</sup> August 2025, Main Auditorium, Atmiya University, 250 students/ 18 schools



The INTACH Rajkot Chapter hosted the District Level Heritage Quiz. The quiz featured two rounds—a written preliminary and an oral final round. Between rounds, students were treated to a soulful Bhatigal folk music. The event was inaugurated by distinguished guests including Swastik Didi, Dr. K. D. Ladva, Shri Jigneshbhai Rathod and more. The quiz was conducted by Quizmaster Hiren Acharya and anchored by INTACH member Niyati Shah. – Dev Depani & Aarav Pambhar of Genius English Medium School secured the first rank.

### **INTACH NATIONAL HERITAGE QUIZ 2025 - STATE ROUND CHHATTISGARH- 12<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

The Chhattisgarh state-level quiz was held at Anand Samaj Library, Gandhi Sadan, Raipur. 15 participants and 8 teachers from 8 chapters took part. Chief guests Dr. Shiv Kumar Pandey, former Vice-Chancellor, and Shri Shashank Sharma, Minister of State for Culture, highlighted the importance of heritage. Shri Arvind Mishra, State Convener, and Dr. Rakesh Tiwari, Raipur Convener, shared details of various chapter activities. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, INTACH members, and dignitaries. The Mahasamund Chapter secured the first position.

### **BIHAR- 12<sup>th</sup> October 2025**



The INTACH Patna Chapter organized the State-Level Heritage Quiz at the Buddha Smriti Park Museum Auditorium, Patna. Winners of the City-Level Quizzes from Patna, Gaya, Nawada, Bhagalpur, and Purnea participated showcasing their knowledge of India's rich cultural heritage. The quiz featured audio, visual, and pictorial rounds and was conducted by Quiz Master Shri AtulPriyadarshi, Chief Mechanical Engineer, East Central Railway. The team from Vidya Vihar Residential School, Purnea (Sabal Kumar and Darshil) emerged as winners, while St. Karen's School, Patna (Arnav Prakash and Jayesh Rana) secured second place. Medals, mementos, and certificates were presented. Dr. Shiv Kumar Mishra from Buddha Smriti Park congratulated the winners and emphasized fostering heritage awareness among children.

### **MADHYA PRADESH- 25<sup>th</sup> October 2025**



The Madhya Pradesh State Round of the INTACH National Heritage Quiz 2025 was held at Gwalior Glory High School, Gwalior. The quiz featured five rounds on Personalities, Monuments, Intangible Heritage, Natural Heritage, and Mythology. After a closely contested session, the Mandla team from Nirmala Senior Secondary School, represented by Harshika Sonkesri and Anshika Yadav, emerged as winners. The event was attended by INTACH Governing Council members and hosted with full support from Gwalior Glory High School. Winners received trophies and INTACH publications, while all participants were awarded heritage and educational books.

#### **KERALA- 1<sup>st</sup> November 2025**



INTACH Heritage Quiz - Kerala Rounds was held on November 1, 2025, at the ASI Hall, Palakkad Fort, from 2-4 pm. Six schools participated, with 12 students competing and around 30 parents, teachers, and guests attending. The event was organised and conducted by 10 INTACH team members. Following the prescribed format, the quiz featured an oral semi-final and a pursuit-style final round to select the Kerala State winner. The programme met its objectives of providing a welcoming environment for outstation participants, delivering a competition befitting a national-level organisation, and highlighting Kerala's diverse heritage beyond the standard school curriculum. Sreehari C Nair and Nandakishore K. S. of Bharathiya Vidya Bhavan's Vidya Mandir from Thrissur secured the first position.

#### **GUJARAT- 4<sup>th</sup> October 2025**



The Gujarat State Finals were held at Bright Day School, Vadodara, with six winning schools from Ahmedabad, Bhavnagar, Bharuch, Jamnagar and Rajkot participating. Quizmaster Ms. Tarisha Desai conducted the three-round quiz in both English and Gujarati to support a Gujarati-medium team. After two on-stage rounds, four teams advanced to the rapid-fire final. Bright Day School CBSE Vasna Unit, represented by Datt Patel and S. Karthick (Class 9), won and will represent Gujarat at the National Finals in Delhi. Shanti Asiatic School Ahmedabad and Shree Satya Sai Vidhyalay Jamnagar placed second and third.

### UTTAR PRADESH- 30<sup>th</sup> October



The INTACH Lucknow Chapter organized the UP State Final of the National Heritage Quiz 2025 at La Martiniere College. Nine teams from across Uttar Pradesh, having won their respective local finals, competed in the event. The quiz featured multiple rounds testing students' awareness of India's rich history and culture. The winners were felicitated by N. K. S. Chauhan, Officer on Special Duty to the Chief Minister; Gary Everett, Principal, La Martiniere College, Lucknow; Dr Neetu Agarwal, Convener, INTACH Lucknow Chapter; Dhanunjay Varshney, Co-Convener; quiz master Surabhi Modi Sahai, INTACH Members Ms Kanak Rekha Chauhan, Prof Sumna Varshney and Mr AK Srivastava. The first prize went to Anshu Singh and Vartika Mishra of Army Public School, Ayodhya.

The first prize went to Anshu Singh and Vartika Mishra of Army Public School, Ayodhya.

### WEST BENGAL - 30<sup>th</sup> October



INTACH Calcutta Regional Chapter organised the state round at Apeejay School Park Street, Kolkata. In these competition 6 students from 3schools representing the Calcutta, Hooghly and Murshidabad Chapters of INTACH participated. The programme was started with the inauguration speech by Mr. Balaknath Bhattacharyya, Convenor, Murshidabad Chapter. The quiz

competition was conducted by the quizmaster Smita Mehta, member of INTACH, Calcutta Chapter over 5 rounds. Sargachi Ramakrishna Mission High School representing INTACH Murshidabad Chapter won the State Level of the quiz.

### **PUNJAB – 7<sup>th</sup> November**

INTACH Punjab State Chapter conducted the state level Quiz competition at Army Public School Beas. Maj Gen Balwinder Singh, VSM (Retd), INTACH Punjab State Convener said that every year this is done to ensure that our younger generation is kept alive about our cultural heritage. This year eleven districts of Punjab participated, Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Ferozpur, Sangrur, Faridkot, Hoshiarpur, Bathinda, Malerkotla, Patiala, Jalandhar and Kapurthala. Spring Dale students: Sehajnoor Kaur and Saurish Nagpal topped and will be representing Punjab in the National which would be held in Delhi in December. Second position was notched by MGN Public School Kapurthala. Mr Rupinder Nijjar and MS Rashima Singh were the Quiz masters.

### **ANDHRA PRADESH – 9<sup>th</sup> October**



The Andhra Pradesh State-Level Heritage Quiz was held at SKR and SKR Women's Degree College, Kadapa, with the permission of Mr. S.V.S. Lakshmi Narayan, State Convenor, and under the supervision of Mr. K. Chinappa Reddy, Convenor, INTACH Kadapa Chapter. Winners of the city rounds from Anantapur, Guntur, Kadapa, Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam, and Machilipatnam participated in a field visit to heritage sites in Kadapa on the first day (8<sup>th</sup> November). On the second day (9<sup>th</sup> November), the participants showcased their knowledge of India's rich cultural heritage through the quiz competition. The team from Anantapur: Y. Midhun Kumar and G. Bharath Rathore of Rotary English Medium School, secured the first position.

### **HIMACHAL PRADESH – 10<sup>th</sup> November**



Himachal Pradesh Quiz state round was organised on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025 in collaboration with HECS division INTACH. The quiz saw participation of the teams from Shimal, Kangra, Dharamshala, and Mandi. It was organised at the Hall of Raj Mahal Hotel & Restaurant. Mr. Abhishek Das, Senior Programme Manager at HECS was the quiz master for the quiz assisted by

Mr. Deepanshu, Programme Coordinator. The event began with a welcome and introduction by Mr. Naresh Malhotra, Convenor, Mandi Chapter. The quiz was conducted in four rounds. At the end of the quiz Shourya and Angna Pathania of Achievers' Hub Sr. Sec. School, Dharamshala secured the first position. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Anil Sharma, Co-convenor, Mandi Chapter and a lunch.

### **RAJASTHAN- 11<sup>th</sup> November**



Rajasthan Quiz state round was organised with the help of INTACH Jodhpur chapter. The quiz was organised at the Chokelav Mahal of Mehrangarh fort and began at 12:00 PM. The quiz was attended by the teams from Ajmer, Alwar, Bhilwara, Beawar, Barmer, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Karauli, Sirohi, Jaipur, and Udaipur. The event was graced by the Deputy Commissioner of Jodhpur Development Authority Mrs. Aditi Purohit. Dr. Mahendra Singh Tanwar, Convenor, Jodhpur Chapter welcomed all the students and the teacher to the quiz. After four thrilling rounds of the quiz, Kritika Jindal and Keshav Garg of Cambridge Court World School, Jaipur secured the first position, followed by Ishant Chaturvedi and Purvi Chaturvedi of Lokhitkari Sr. Sec. School, Karauli, and Tamanna Singh and Anvi Agrawal of Bangar Public School, Beawar. The quiz ended after a vote of thanks by the convenor Mr. Tanwar.

### **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. Mr. Feisal Alkazi and the HECS team conducted the content workshops, while the technical workshops were done by the team from the Tuning Fork Films- Mr. Ankit Pogula, Ms. Himanshi Saini, Ms. Sasha Singh, Ms. Shikha Gupta, Mr. Aditya Verma, Mr. Vinod Sreedhar and Mr. Anshul Uniyal.

### **DELHI**

An engaging session was held for the Delhi NCR schools on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> July INTACH, where 114 students and 39 teachers from 38 schools from Delhi NCR participated. The students were introduced to the themes through engaging exploration of storytelling, filmmaking, and cultural heritage.



## DELHI

The event was held on 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025 here at INTACH and witnessed enthusiastic participation from 112 students and 39 teachers from 38 schools from Delhi NCR, with technical experts guiding students through the intricacies of crafting an engaging film.



## VARANASI & AYODHYA



The FILMIT Workshop at was held on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025 at Sunbeam School, Lahartara. 150 students and teachers from 18 Schools of Varanasi and 5 schools of Ayodhya participated. Varanasi Convenor Mr. Ashok Kapoor, Co Convenors Mr. Nirmal Joshi and Mr. Anil Keshari, Sunbeam chairman Mr. Deepak Madhok, Principal of the host school Ms. Perveen Quaiser also graced the occasion.

## CHANDIGARH & AMBALA

The workshop was held on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025 at Strawberry Fields High School, Chandigarh. Students gained insights into the art of filmmaking and explored creative ways to share heritage through the lens of a camera. 61 students and 16 teachers from 9 schools of Chandigarh and 4 schools from Ambala took part in the workshop. The event was graced by Ms. Deepika Gandhi and Mr. Vivek Atrey, Co-Convenors of the INTACH Chandigarh Chapter, along with Col. R.D. Singh, Convenor of the INTACH Ambala Chapter.



## AMRITSAR & PUNJAB

The workshop was held on 1<sup>st</sup> August at Spring Dale Senior School, Amritsar, where 63 students and 24 teachers across 6 Amritsar schools and 7 from other parts of Punjab cities (Beas, Kapurthala, Tarn Taran, Ferozepur, Hoshiarpur and Jalandhar) took part. The workshop provided students with valuable insights on the themes and hands-on training in filmmaking. Distinguished attendees included Maj. Gen. Balwinder Singh, Convenor of the INTACH Punjab Chapter; Mr. Gagandeep Virk, Convenor of the INTACH Amritsar Chapter; and Mr. Rajiv Sharma, Principal of Spring Dale Senior School.



### **KOLKATA**

The workshop was held on 1<sup>st</sup> August at Sri Sri Academy, Alipore, where 78 students and 21 teachers from 15 schools took part. Students learnt about the technicalities of filmmaking and were introduced to the themes as well. Ms. Kanchana Mukhopadhyay, Co-Convenor INTACH Kolkata Chapter also graced the occasion.



### **VADODARA**

The workshop was held on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2025 at Navrachana International School, Vasna. 85 students and teachers from 12 schools from Vadodara, Ankeleshwar and Bharuch took part. A tribute to the iconic film Sholay set the stage for an engaging introduction to the themes and process of filmmaking. The event was attended by Mr. Sanjeev Joshi, Convenor of the INTACH Vadodara Chapter; Ms. Tarisha Desai, Co-Convenor; and school principals from both the CBSE and IB wings - Ms. Kashmiria Jaiswal and Mr. Theophane D'Souza.



### **AHMEDABAD**

The event was held on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2025 at Shreyas Foundation. 72 students and 20 teachers from



12 schools participated. Students received training in filmmaking and were introduced to thematic concepts. The session was attended by Ms. Utpalaben, Convenor of INTACH Ahmedabad; Mr. Abhay Mangaldas, Chairman of the Shreyas Foundation; and Ms. Lataben, Principal of the Shreyas Foundation.

## JAIPUR

An insightful session on filmmaking and thematic exploration was conducted on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2025 at Neerja Modi School. 72 students and 25 teachers from 15 schools participated. The event was graced by the presence of Mr. Nikhil Pandit, Co-Convenor of INTACH Jaipur.



## MUMBAI



The workshop was held on 7<sup>th</sup> Aug. 2025 at IES College of Architecture. Over 60 students and 16 teachers from 10 schools participated. Students were introduced to the process of filmmaking and thematic concepts during the workshop. The IES team, led by Ms. Shilpa Chandawarkar, also participated in the session.

## GOA

The event was held on 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2025 at Sharada Mandir School, Miramar. 82 students and 17 teachers from 12 schools took part. The workshop introduced the students the themes as well the training in filmmaking. Ms. Fatima, Convenor of INTACH Goa and Ms. Sharmila Umesh, Principal of Sharada Mandir School was also present.



## HYDERABAD

The workshop was held on 12<sup>th</sup> August at Gitanjali Devashray. 95 students and 25 teachers from



25 schools participated. An engaging session focused on thematic exploration and filmmaking training was conducted. Mrs. Anuradha Reddy, Convenor of the INTACH Hyderabad Chapter, and Mrs. Kasturi Chatterjee, Principal of the host school were also present.

## CHENNAI

The workshop was held on 13<sup>th</sup> August at Sri Sankara Sr. Secondary School, Adyar. 65 students and 15 teachers from 11 schools took part. The students were introduced to the themes and also received training in filmmaking. Host school Principal and Vice Principal Mrs. Vijayalakshmi and Mrs. Kavitha respectively and Ms. Sujatha Shankar, Convenor INTACH Chennai Chapter also attended.



## KOCHI



An insightful session thematic exploration and training on filmmaking was conducted. The workshop was held on 14<sup>th</sup> August at Kerala Museum, Kochi, attended by 57 students, 13 teachers from 11 schools, along with Mr. Babu C. Rajeev, Convenor of the INTACH Kochi Chapter; Ms. Aditi Nair, Director of the Kerala Museum; and Mr. Biley Menon, Co-Convenor of the INTACH Kochi Chapter.

## ARTICLES

### Religion & Faith - by Arvind Mishra Hareli: A Message of Environmental Protection

Chhattisgarh is the only place in the world where greenery is celebrated as a festival. Hareli is a festival dedicated to environmental protection and keeping nature clean. In today's era of global warming, deforestation, industrial expansion, and the rise of concrete jungles, pollution is spreading like a monster. In such times, the relevance of *Hareli* becomes even more significant.

The tradition of celebrating *Hareli* in Chhattisgarh dates back to ancient times. The thinkers, sages, and scholars of that period understood that environmental protection would be crucial in the future, and therefore they established this festival. *Hareli* is not only a religious celebration but also rooted in science and logic – an exemplary model for the entire world.

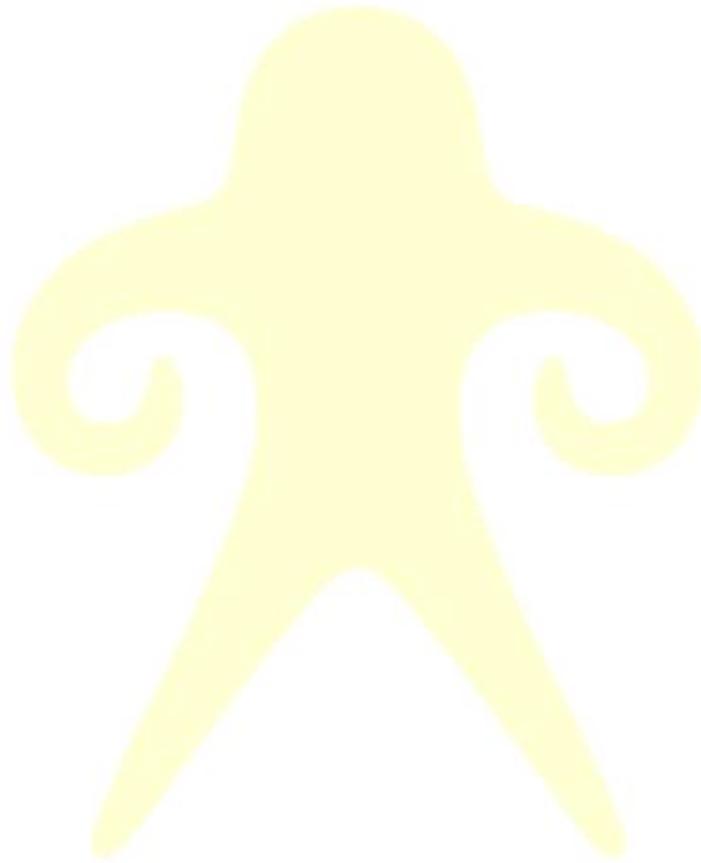
On this day, prayers are conducted in villages, and agricultural tools are worshipped. Earlier, fields would be ploughed by the time Hareli arrived. However, due to changing weather patterns, the *Byasi* festival now comes after Hareli. After *Byasi*, farming tools such as the plough, datary, hoe, rapa, compass, sickle, tungiya, shewer, Kodra, saber, dheki, jaata pali, katha, etc implements are cleaned and placed at the worship site. All family members gather for a collective prayer. After the rituals, villagers visit one another to spread the message of Hareli – *the message of greenery*.

Hareli is celebrated during the peak of the rainy season, when villages and towns are surrounded by mud and slush. Keeping this in mind, there is a tradition of riding the 'Gidi'. Competitions such as Gidi races and Gidi wrestling are organized in every village. These activities continue throughout the rainy season – almost two months. The government should consider including this traditional game in school sports.

It is commendable that this year, recognizing the importance of Hareli, the Chhattisgarh government has declared it a public holiday. Traditional sports like Kho-Kho, Phugdi, Gidi Race, Kabaddi, Chair Race, and Matki Phod are being organized in all district headquarters and institutions. Traditional Chhattisgarhi dishes like *Thethri*, *Khurmi*, *Fara*, *Muthiya*, *Dhuska*, and *Cheela* will also be served. This initiative deserves appreciation. On Hareli, neem leaves are hung at the entrance of every house. This is a natural method of protecting the environment, as neem purifies the atmosphere and is considered sacred. Hareli is a living example of nature conservation practiced by the people of Chhattisgarh. In many homes, rice-flour *cheela* is prepared and offered to the agricultural tools as *prasad*. It is believed that gods reside in trees, plants, birds, and even ploughs. Villagers decorate the outer walls of houses with designs made from cow dung paste – called *Savanahi* – to ward off evil spirits. The village *Baiga* and *Ojha* perform rituals using *tantra-mantra*. Although educated people may see this as superstition, perhaps there is a scientific basis behind it. Whatever the case, the intention behind it remains positive.

Hareli is a sacred and beautiful festival celebrated only in Chhattisgarh. Its spirit of environmental harmony and sustainable living should be adopted by all nations. It has the power to inspire the world toward environmental awareness and ecological balance.

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## Astonishing Secrets of Stone - Mewar Sas-Bahu Temple

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India is a country that accommodates all faiths and religions. It is home to temples dedicated to all the gods and Deities. Here, nature is worshipped in the form of sea, rivers, mountains, fire, water, trees, animals, birds and so on. Amidst all the small and big temples in India, there are temples, two in number, known by the name of Saas-Bahu temple. Sounds interesting enough?



### **India's Sas-Bahu Temple**

Well, A wonderful antiquity may be found in the lap of the Aravalli mountain range, midway between Udaipur and Nathdwara, about 23 km from the city of Udaipur in Rajasthan, in Nagda village, (Nagda was once an important city of Mewar, possibly a capital of one of its rulers) and near to Bagela Lake. A notable 10th-century temple devoted to Lord Vishnu, you will find the Saas-Bahu temple still attractive enough to amaze the passerby.

Curious about the background of these temples? How they got their unusual name?

### **A king got these built for his wife and daughter-in-law**

Going by the historical records, these are no temples dedicated to glorify the saas (mother-in-law) and bahu (daughter-in-law). Rather, a certain king Mahipala of Kachchwaha Dynasty got them constructed sometime in the 10th or 11th century A.D. It is a commonly held belief that the queen of Mahipala was a devotee of Lord Vishnu. The king was kind enough to get a temple made for his beloved spouse, wherein she could worship her favoured deity. Later, the prince got himself a wife, who was a worshipper of Lord Shiva. Therefore, another temple of Lord Shiva was built right next to the Vishnu shrine for the daughter-in-law.

### **From 'Sahastrabahu' to 'Sas Bahu'**

Because the temple of Lord Vishnu was constructed first, it was named Sahastrabahu Temple, meaning 'the one having a thousand arms', a synonym for Lord Vishnu.

However, afterwards, the twin temples were collectively called Sahastrabahu Temple. As time passed, the name got corrupted, and the temple became popular as Saas-Bahu Temple due to the reason of its origin. Apparently, the Saas temple is comparatively larger than the other shrine.

### What's worth seeing?



The temple is located enroute Eklingji temple that is dedicated to Lord Shiva. The Saas-Bahu temple is enclosed by ten or five smaller shrines respectively. The Saas temple has an archway in the front space for placing the idol of Lord Vishnu on special festivals. It has three doors facing three directions, while the fourth door is located in a room that is shut off from public access.

At the entrance of the temple, idols of goddess Saraswati, Lord Brahma and Lord Vishnu are placed. The walls of the temple sport amazing carvings and the architecture as a whole is much admirable. But owing to numerous invasions and the effect of time, some portions of the heritage site are in ruins.



### The Architecture Of The Temple

The Sahasra Bahu temples are remarkable examples of the Māru-Gurjara style of architecture, which is characterised by intricate carvings, ornate pillars, and domed ceilings. Its Nagara style of architecture is characterised by the lofty Shikharas. The temples share a common platform, facing a temple tank, and are similar in design, but one is larger than the other. Ten subsidiary shrines surround the larger temple, while the smaller one has four. Only the bases of some of these shrines remain today.



The temples have a sanctuary, a mandapa with side projections, and an open porch. The shikharas, or spires, of the temples, are made of brick and have many smaller turrets. The shikhara of the smaller temple has been restored, while the larger one is still truncated.

Below the platform, there is a Torana-style entrance screen, with four columns and a decorative cusped arch in the centre.



The interiors and parts of the exteriors of the temples are lavishly carved with scenes from Hindu mythology, floral motifs, geometric patterns, and animal figures.



The ceilings of the temples have paintings of lotus flowers, which symbolise purity and divinity. The temples also have inscriptions in Sanskrit and Prakrit languages, which mention the names of the king and his family, as well as the dates and purposes of the construction.



Itutmish (Delhi emperor of that time) destroyed Nagda in 1226. The temples are on the Archaeological Survey of India's list of heritage monuments.

Adbhutji Shanthinath Jain Tirth or Nagahyuda Jain Mandir, an ancient Jain centre is located nearby, next to the Bagela Lake.

### **Materials and Construction Techniques**

The temple was constructed primarily using red sandstone and greys, both locally sourced and chosen for their durability and ability to hold fine carvings. The construction process included:

- Hand-carving details: Every surface, from pillars to ceilings, features elaborate designs, showcasing the artisans' mastery.
- Symmetrical design: The temples were meticulously planned to align with cardinal directions, reflecting astronomical and spiritual principles.
- Shikhara design: The towering spires were layered in concentric tiers, each adorned with detailed carvings of deities, mythical creatures, and celestial symbols.

### **Notable advancements include:**

- Precision stone carving: Artisans used advanced chiselling techniques to create intricate carvings, ensuring uniformity and detail even in the smallest motifs.
- Modular construction: Individual stone blocks were pre-carved and assembled like a puzzle, allowing for precision in design and durability.
- Structural stability: The use of interlocking stones without visible mortar demonstrates an advanced understanding of engineering, ensuring the longevity of the structure.

These techniques not only highlight the artisans' skills but also reflect the technological progress of the era.

### **A Unique Blend of Regional Traditions and External Influences:**

The Sas Bahu Temple combines local artistic traditions with broader cultural influences

- **Regional traditions:** The detailed carvings of Vishnu and other deities reflect the regional devotion to Vaishnavism. Additionally, motifs of dancers and musicians celebrate the cultural vibrancy of Mewar.
- **Influences from the Pratihara style:** The temple's Nagara architecture, especially its shikharas and mandapas, is rooted in the design principles popularized by the Pratiharas.
- **External artistic elements:** Subtle geometric patterns and floral designs suggest the diffusion of artistic ideas from Central Asia and the Persian world, a result of expanding trade and cultural exchanges.

This synthesis of influences creates a monument that is both regionally rooted and globally connected.

### **Transformations Over the Centuries:**

- **Medieval period:** The temple experienced destruction during invasions but retained its spiritual significance. Many sculptures and architectural elements were lost or damaged during this period.
- **Colonial era:** British archaeologists documented the site, recognizing its artistic and cultural importance, which led to some efforts at preservation.
- **Modern times:** Today, the temple is a protected monument, attracting tourists and scholars. However, the weathered sculptures and partially ruined structures reflect the centuries of neglect and the impact of natural forces.

### **The Significance Of The Temple**

The Sahasra Bahu temples are not only a testament to the artistic and cultural heritage of Rajasthan but also a reflection of the religious tolerance and harmony that prevailed in the region. The temples show how the king respected the faiths of his wife and daughter-in-law, and how the two different sects of Hinduism coexisted peacefully. The temples also demonstrate the devotion and dedication of the king and his subjects, who created such magnificent structures in a remote and arid landscape.

### **Challenges in Conservation:**

- **Natural degradation:** Erosion and weathering of sandstone carvings threaten the monument's intricate details.
- **Tourism impact:** Unregulated visitor activities contribute to wear and damage. Increased footfall, combined with insufficient management, risks further damage to the site.

- Limited resources: Conservation efforts are hampered by insufficient funding and expertise are not hired or consulted, making it challenging to maintain the temple's intricate carvings and structural integrity.
- Vandalism and neglect: Unregulated access has occasionally led to vandalism, while a lack of community engagement hinders sustained conservation efforts.

**Conclusion:**

The Sas Bahu Temple in Nagda stands as a remarkable example of the artistic architectural and technological achievements of medieval India. Its intricate design, use of durable materials, and fusion of artistic traditions highlight the innovation and creativity of the Pratihara era. With its cultural significance and potential for international recognition, the monument represents a vital link to India's rich historical and spiritual heritage. Efforts to preserve and promote this architectural gem will ensure its legacy endures for generations. While the temple is recognized as a site of historical and artistic value, its state of preservation requires urgent attention. Many sculptures are eroded, and some parts of the structure are at risk of collapse.

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## Saraswati Gana Sabha, KAKINADA, Since 1894

Vedula VLN Murthy  
Convener  
INTACH, East Godavari Chapter

Saraswati Gana Sabha is an old cultural Institution promoting classical music and dance from more than a century in Kakinada in South India. It was the oldest and was one of the three Gana Sabhas existing at that time by 1903 in the entire South India. The other two were- Swathi Thirunal Sabha in Trivandrum and Gayani Samaj in Bangalore. Saraswati Gana Sabha is older than the Music Academy in Chennai.

ORIGIN: Sri Kommireddi Suryanarayana Murthy Naidu was an ardent lover of Carnatic music who frequently used to attend the Music Festivals in Madras (Chennai) and used to invite the renowned Artists to Kakinada. Then, performances were held in his house and the likeminded people attended. Subsequently, Annadana Samajam hall was used for holding these concerts, which were usually held during the Dasara festival season every year.

Upon the demise of Sri Suryanarayana Murthy Naidu, the elite in Kakinada led by Dr. Lakkaraju Subba Row, M. V. Sastry, Devarakonda Subrahmanyam and others have registered a Society in 1904 named as Saraswathi Gana Sabha and that continued the Annual festival of Music and Dance during the Dasara festival days every year at the Annadana Samajam Hall.

In 1959, the efforts of great artistes like Dwaram Venkata Swami Naidu, G. N. Balasubrahmaniam and Tanguturi Suryakumari and others, Saraswati Gana Sabha got its own premises named SURYA KALA MANDIRAM, built on the land given by the East Godavari District Association on lease in the Vallabhai Street, (cinema street) by the members of the Committee led by the late Dr. Lakkaraju Subba Row and late Sri M.V. Sastry, late Sri C. Srinivasa Rao, late Sri Challa Sitaramayya, late Sri Munuganti Sriramurthy and others.

While the Srirama Samajam is serving the needs of learning of classical music, the



Saraswati Gana Sabha was serving in conducting Music, Dance and Drama programs in Kakinada. The building was inaugurated by Dr. Bezawada Gopala Reddy, the then Chief Minister of the State at the instance of late Sri Duriseti Gopala Rao, M.L.A. Jaggampeta who was very close to Dr. Bezawada Gopala Reddy. The Founder President Sri KVR Krishna Rao, popularly known as Polavaram Zamindar was a philanthropist, who contributed his

might to the cultural and social uplift of the people. In its formative years, the Gana Sabha was patronized and nurtured by the generous support of the erstwhile Rajah of Pithapuram, R. V. K. M. Suryarao Bahadur and the Maharajah of Bobbili Ramakrishna Rangarao Bahadur.



Within a short time, Suryakala Mandiram blossomed into a most distinguished platform for performing arts. Since then, the annual Music, Dance and Drama programs are being conducted uninterruptedly till today. Renowned artists of Vocal, Veena, Violin, Mandolin, Saxophone, Flute,

Sitar, Mridangam, Bharatanatyam, Mohiniattam, Kuchipudi, Kathak and Kathakali Dancers gave their performances on this stage.

To name a few were... Sarvasri.... Semmangudi Srinivas Iyer, Musiri Subramani Iyer,



G.N. Balasubramaniam, O.S. Thyagarajan, Pushpavanam Iyer, Chembai Vaidyanatha, Sangameswara Sastry, D.K. Pattammal, Chowdiah, Ariakudi Ramanuja Iyengar, Maharajapuram Santanam, Palghat Mani Iyer, Kannakudi Vaidyanathan, Dr. M. Balamurali Krishna, M. S. Subbulakshmi, Lalgudi Jayaraman, T. N. Sesha Gopalan, M. S. Gopalakrishnan, Padmasri Dwaram

Venkata Swamy Naidu, Avasarala Kanya Kumari, Bade Ghulam Ali Khan, Kashi Bai, Roshanara Begum, Parveen Sultana, Priya sisters, Malladi Suri Babu & Malladi Brothers, Sudha Raghunadan, Sanjay Subramanyam, Sikkil Guruchan, Mandolin Srinivas, Bombay Jayashree, Emani Sankara Sastry, Chittibabu, E. Gayatri, N. Rani, T.R. Mahalingam, Jayaprada Ramamurthy, Travancore Sisters, Yamini Krishna Murthy, Dr. Shobha Naidu, Rajeswari Sainath, Yalla Venkateswara Rao, Dwaram Venkata Swami Naidu, Nedunuri Krishna Murthy, Vyjayanthi Mala, Kamala Lakshman and the list is endless. Even, the Hindustani classical Music programs were conducted and Award-winning Dramas were staged during occasions. Performance in the Suryakala Mandiram in Kakinada is felt as a great honour by the artists.

During the centenary year in 2004, the Suryakala Mandiram was renovated at a cost of some Rs. 18 lakhs with a new stage and greenrooms, acoustic ceiling, air-conditioning, fans, chairs, public conveniences, generator, Guest rooms etc. The renovated Auditorium

was inaugurated by the Iconic Vocalist Padmavibhushan Dr. Mangalampalli Balamuralikrishna followed by his concert. Apart from the main auditorium, it also contains a multi-purpose hall named after its first President, KRV Krishna Rao (Polavaram Zamindar). From the year 2016, the Concert Programs are spread over the year, once in two months and over a weekend to ensure good attendance.

The Saraswathi Gana Sabha started a Sangeetha Sikshana Kendram in 2017 to promote classical music in Vocal, Veena, Violin, Flute and Mridangam. It conducts various contests for young artistes to promote Carnatic music, Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi. In addition to the Dasara festival, Saraswati Gana Sabha celebrates Thyagaraja Aradhanothsvam, Muthuswami Dixitar Vardhanti and commemorates the anniversaries of Bakhta Ramadas and Annamacharya every year.

Sangeeta Vidwat Sabha is yet another organization established in the year 1945 running classical music and dance programs uninterruptedly during the Sankranthi festival season in the Suryakala Mandiram.

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