

Chapter Newsletter

Issue 01 – December 2024 to March 2025



A New Era of Leadership – Welcoming New Chairman, Shri Ashok Singh Thakur



**Newly Elected Chairman Shri Ashok
Singh Thakur addressing the INTACH
Staff**

Dear Heritage Enthusiasts

As we turn the page to a new chapter in the vibrant history of INTACH, it's with great pride and excitement that we announce the election of our new Chairman Shri Ashok Singh Thakur. This marks a pivotal moment for INTACH, that promises new vision, renewed energy, and a steadfast commitment to preserve our rich cultural heritage. The election process has not only reaffirmed our member's dedication to the cause of conservation but also exemplified the democratic spirit that lies at the heart of INTACH.

Our newly elected Chairman brings with him a wealth of experience, a passion for heritage conservation, and a clear understanding of the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Under his leadership, we are confident that our chapters will continue to play a key role in safeguarding the architectural, cultural, and historical legacy that defines our identity.

Major General L K Gupta AVSM (Retd) played a pivotal role in last fifteen years as Chairman, strengthening the organizational framework, fostering collaborations with various stakeholders, and ensuring that our programs continue to thrive. During his tenure, INTACH has seen an exponential growth and nurtured some of the iconic projects like documentation of Mahanadi River, clean Ganga initiatives through bio remediation etc. His leadership left a lasting imprint by broadening INTACH scope, enhancing documentation efforts, expansion of Chapters network, and integrating modern strategies into heritage preservation. INTACH wishes him a very happy and satisfying retirement, filled with great health and happiness.

The road ahead is bursting with promise, and together, we will continue to champion the cause of heritage preservation. We look forward to the exciting developments in the coming years and the opportunity to work alongside each one of you in safeguarding our invaluable cultural treasures.

Thank you for your unwavering support and commitment. Let's step into this new era with enthusiasm and determination.

Warm regards,

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

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Appointments

INTACH New Appointments (December 2024 to March, 2025)

The INTACH warmly welcomes the newly appointed Conveners, Co-Conveners and Additional Co-Conveners of its Chapters.

State	Chapters	Convenor	Co-Convenor	Addl. Co-Convenor
December, 2024				
Andhra Pradesh	Anantapur	-	-	Shri A G Venugopal Reddy
Gujarat	Bharuch	-	-	Ms Archana Patel
Haryana	Sonipat	Prof Shailja Sikarwar	Ms Sukanya Sharma	-
Punjab	Jalandhar	-	Shri Mohit Chaudhary	-
Mizoram	Lunglei	Rev Dr F Sangvela	Shri K Lalsanga	-
January, 2025				
NIL				
February, 2025				
NIL				
March, 2025				
Haryana	Haryana State	Maj Atul Dev (Retd)	Ms Sumita Tayal	-
Chhattisgarh	Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi (GPM)	Shri Shahid Zaman Khan	Shri Naveen James	-
Madhya Pradesh	Burhanpur	-	-	Dr Virendra Swarnkar 'Nirjhar'
Arunachal Pradesh	Arunachal Pradesh State	Shri Oken Tayeng	-	-
Haryana	Hisar	Ms Parnita Singh	-	-



Chapters Division

1. Farewell to Chairman, Maj Gen LK Gupta AVSM (Retd) by HODs

Farewell speech by Manu Bhatnagar, Principal Director, Natural Heritage Division

Ladies and Gentlemen – A very good afternoon to all

Today, we gather not just to bid farewell, but to celebrate the remarkable leadership and legacy of our esteemed Chairman, General LK Gupta, AVSM. It is with mixed emotions – and I speak on behalf of all - gratitude, admiration, and a tinge of sadness – that we come together to honor his remarkable journey.

Going down memory lane it may be recalled that after General Gupta retired from the Army after a distinguished service, where he was a highly decorated officer, and joined



INTACH as a volunteer in 1995. He, thereafter, trained with ICOMOS and English Heritage and headed the Chapters Division for more than a decade. His deft handling of the members, despite the stringent financial constraints, resulted in a membership satisfied in their expectations of the head office. The resultant popularity metamorphosed him into the Chairman's role in 2010. Since then, he has had a remarkable unbroken run of 5

terms, with thumping support at all times. This is a record which, almost certainly, will not be repeated. I recall veteran members insisting that he stand even if he expressed his wish to step down, particularly in 2022.

Gen. Gupta's chairmanship has been marked with milestone achievements. These bear recounting:

- Devolving Divisional responsibility to a younger leadership, backing them with adequate resources and expecting them to deliver and this faith has been amply borne out by results
- Shoring up the financial resources of INTACH by obtaining the Rs. 100 cr special corpus alongside Dr CT Mishra
- Retrieval of the UK Trust funds of Rs. 30 Crores lying unutilized in UK – these measures enabled INTACH to carry out pioneer projects
- Starting the INTACH Knowledge Centre which has become a major resource offering by INTACH
- Starting the INTACH Heritage Academy which is imparting both conservation skills as well as promoting conservation research
- Re-energizing Cultural Affairs and Publications Divisions where the output is now both prolific and of exceptionally high standards
- Expanding the reach of INTACH by doubling the number of Chapters to 225 and taking the membership to over 10,000



- Several awards being conferred on the organization such as the Mahatma Award, 2024, HUDCO, 8 international film awards for 'Kumbh : The Nectar of Faith'
- INTACH being referred to by the Judiciary and Parliamentary Committees for advice and inputs
- HoDs being recognized by outside awards for meritorious work and contributing in several policy groups of the govt
- Successfully running an all-India institution given tight financial constraint

Gen Gupta has been more than just a leader. Over the years, he has been a mentor, a guide, and a source of unwavering support for each one of us. Under his leadership, we've achieved milestones that once seemed distant.

A great deal of this is due to the exceptional work atmosphere which prevails in the organization – liberal, flexible, encouraging, free of politics – which has enabled the Divisions to flower influencing the conservation spectrum through both project and policy initiatives. I recall Gen. Gupta saying – 'when you have thoroughbreds you don't bridle them' – a good idea was never turned down.

Gen Gupta fostered a culture of free and frank exchanges- there was no fear or favor involved. He resolved friction, nurturing the sense of INTACH family and always keeping the interests of INTACH first. At all times he has been generous with credit, gentle with criticism, inflexible on points of principle. You've encouraged us, Sir, to be our best selves, pushing boundaries, while always leading with humility.

Sir - You've been a resolute hand at the helm through challenges and storms, fiercely preserving the independence of the institution, keeping vested interests at bay. Through your long tenure the institution has remained free of financial blemish. As a result, INTACH remains one of the few organizations capable of taking a principled stand.

On behalf of everyone here, I want to express our deepest gratitude. We will miss your leadership, your cheerful presence, and your sage advice. But more than that, we will miss the warmth and genuine care you've shown each one of us. As you move to the next phase, know that the foundation you've built here will continue to thrive. Sir, we assure you that we will strive to keep the flag flying higher than before.

May your journey ahead be just as fulfilling as the one you leave behind with us. We wish you nothing but the best in your future pursuits.

Thank you, General Gupta, for everything. We wish you and madam good health and long life.

In closing I recall Obaidullah Aleem's apt lines:

**"Aankhon se door sahi, dil se kahan jayega
O janewale tu hame yaad bahut aayega"**



2. Newly Appointed Conveners/ Co-Conveners / Addl. Co-Conveners - Orientation Workshop, 20th to 22nd March, 2025

With a view to familiarize the newly appointed Conveners/Co-Conveners/Addl. Co-Conveners with INTACH's mission, program, and activities, an orientation workshop was planned from 19th - 22th May 2025 at the USI, RTR, New Delhi. The workshop started in year 2012 and since then more than 270 Conveners/ Co conveners have been benefitted with this workshop.



The aim of the workshop is to familiarize the newly appointed Conveners/Co-Conveners/Addl. Co-Conveners with INTACH's mission, programme and activities, and also to give them an insight of the basic administrative frame work and laid down financial guidelines to be followed for effective functioning of the chapter. Conveners learnt the scope of their work and professional capabilities of INTACH Central Office, which they might

seek for enlarging and enriching their voluntary work in their own chapter. In three days scheduled workshop conveners interacted with Head of the Professional Divisions and learnt through them the large number of projects, activities being undertaken by them and the linkages of their works with the Chapters. Workshop was well attended by 21 participants from chapters across the country.

Workshop commenced with the welcome address by the Director Chapters, Gp Capt Arvind Shukla (Retd), in which he emphasized the enlarged participation of Chapters with the INTACH professional Divisions. Thereafter, while addressing the participants Member Secretary emphasized on purification of the membership list the Chairman Major General L. K. Gupta AVSM (Retd) stated that there should always be a connect between Chapters and Head office. INTACH brought knowledge after its inception. Earlier objects were sent to Europe but after INTACH's arrival our world class labs have become a boost for conservation and preservation matters. INTACH has provided experts in field of Art and Heritage and the focus is to conserve heritage on ourselves rather than depending upon government. We should try to mobilize local community. Conveners and Co Conveners should recognize the heritage and the contribution required. Central office is going to assist the chapter. He insisted that Chapters must prepare a Chapter profile. Cities of culture is the programme that IHA division conducting every fourth Tuesday of every month. INTACH Charter which is available on website was prepared in 2004. In this charter we talk about adaptive reuse of heritage. We should distribute this charter to Architecture Colleges and imply it.



Thereafter, brief presentations by the Divisional Heads, on Conservation Training and Capacity Building were given by Dr Parul Munjal, Chapters Guidelines by Director Chapters, Architectural Heritage & Listing and Documentation by Ms A Vijaya, Heritage Education and Communications by Ms Purnima Dutta, Intangible Cultural Heritage by Ms Nerupma Modwel, Art and Material Heritage by Shri Nilabh Sinha, Natural Heritage by Shri Manu Bhatnagar, Heritage Craft by Ms Vandana Manchanda. During the outdoor activities Conveners were exposed to Listing working session at Lodhi Garden.

On the final day of workshop, Conveners, Co-Conveners presented number of Activities and Projects undertaken by their chapters and discussed the strategies adopted by them to spread heritage awareness in their region.

Chairman in his concluding remarks requested chapters to follow three important points to spread awareness, fighting for the public cause and revive some craft/art or conserve, out of your passion.

Encouraging feedback and suggestions were received during the workshop and submitted for perusal of MS.



Group Photo – Orientation Workshop 2025



Chapters Activities

Andaman & Nicobar

1. 14th December 2024 celebrate the biodiversity of the Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park, Wandoor.

INTACH Andaman and Nicobar Chapter in collaboration with Dakshin Foundation and ANET and with support from Forest Department, organized a boot camp for around 60 children from different villages of Wandoor panchayat.

The children were taken to Marine Interpretation Centre, Wandoor where, Shri. Mohammed Hussain, Camp officer, Scuba Diving and Reef Monitoring Unit, Research and Survey Range beautifully explained several issues like Man-Animal Conflict between Crocodiles and Humans, Rescue Efforts by the Forest Department, Tagging of Turtles for Documentation and Statistics, Tagging of Cobras, the essence of Coral Reefs and the significance that little children can play in conserving the flora and fauna in the Wandoor area. The children were mesmerized to know that turtles come all the way from Madagascar to lay eggs in the National Park. He also explained about the three flagship species that the National Park beholds, The Corals, Turtles, and The Dugong, our State Animal.

Ms. Agnesia Dung, a botanist and a Programme Assistant with Dakshin Foundation, brought the session alive with her vibrant seminar on the mangrove's ecosystem of the islands, and explained in very simple words, about the littoral forests as well as species from the mangrove areas.

Shri. Arun Singh, founding member of Andaman Avians Club, who was a special invitee, showed a presentation on endemic and migratory birds of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and gave nuggets of amazing information on sightings of rare species of birds. His ppt began with the slide of our State Bird. He mentioned sightings of birds from China and how these sightings are a rare phenomenon given cyclonic weather. Shri. Singh also quizzed the children on locations where they must have spotted common birds in the National park area like Beach Thick Knee and Egrets. He explained the difference between different Egrets as well as Serpent Eagles which are so common in the islands.

Shri. Irfan Ali, Programme Associate, Dakshin Foundation, took the children on a tour of the Interpretation center and spent a lot of time to explain about each turtle species that inhabit the park. The children were pretty amazed to know that Crocodiles and Turtles are since the age of dinosaurs.

The camp ended with a gift of books called the Treasure Islands from INTACH A and N Chapter.

The camp was coordinated by Ms. Samhita Veda Acharya, Convener, INTACH A & N Chapter with support from INTACH volunteers Ebi Mathew and Sajit Jaina and Mrs. Madhuri Mondal, Senior Programme Officer, Dakshin Foundation.



Andhra Pradesh

East Godavari

INTACH UTSAV 2025 from 28 - 31 January 2025- Crafts Exhibition held in New Delhi. The Craftsmen Sri K. Nageswara Rao and A. Pavan belongs to Etikoppaka Toys from the village in Anakapalle district in the Andhra Pradesh state have participated in the Crafts Utsav held from 28- 31 January 2025 conducted by the Heritage, Craft & Community Division of the INTACH Head Quarters on the occasion of the INTACH having completed 40 years of its active functioning. The Craftsmen have expressed their satisfaction on the arrangements and having participated in the Utsav program.



Etikoppaka Toys- East Godavari Chapter



Etikoppaka Toys Tablaeu – East Godavari Chapter

Guntur

1. Report on 'Mahisasuramardini through Ages' Photo Exhibition

On the occasion of Dussehra Navaratri festival, Guntur chapter organised a photo exhibition with the theme “Mahisasuramardini through Ages” on 10th & 11th October, 2024 at Modukuru village in Bapatla district where a grand fair is held annually.

Under the Guidance of Chapter Convener S.V.S Laxminarayana, P. Srinath Reddy, a member and young archaeologist, organized the exhibition in which images of the goddess sculptures collected from all over the country depicting the evolution and development of the iconographic features of the Goddess from the 2nd century to 18th century under the patronage of different ruling dynasties such as Kushan, Gupta, Chola, Pala, Pallava, Hoysala and Vijayanagara.

The exhibition received great response from the visitors including members, experts, students, history lovers and villagers. The visual journey of Mahisasuramardini, illustrating her evolution through ages created a spark in visitors about the rich heritage, culture and history.



'Mahisasuramardini through Ages' Photo Exhibition – Guntur Chapter

2. Report that the joint event organized by INTACH Guntur Chapter and Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Guntur was a resounding success! On Saturday, 19th October 2024, we hosted an interactive session with Smt. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani, Acting Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission, at the Sri Bommidala Srikrishna Murthy Auditorium, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Guntur.

The event witnessed an overwhelming participation of over 600 students, lecturers, and reputed persons from various fields. The audience was enthralled by Smt. Sayani's insightful address, and the interactive session that followed was highly engaging.

The program was a grand success, and our honorable guest was felicitated by the participants. We received positive feedback from all who attended, and we are delighted to have had the opportunity to host such a prestigious event.



Hosted an interactive session with Smt. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani, Acting Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission, at the Sri Bommidala Srikrishna Murthy Auditorium, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Guntur – Guntur Chapter

Nandyal

1. Nandyal Chapter in coordination with volunteer organization, cleaned the abandoned Heritage Well of centuries old in a Village Guvvalakunta in Kothhapalli Mandal, Nandyal district in Andhra Pradesh state on 15th December Sunday with about 100 volunteers.

The said Well water was used as a Holy water for Lord Siva Puja by Villager's. But since few decades the well is abandoned due to debris i.e used alcohol bottles, plastic waste and the water in well was giving bad smell due to above all.

I personally visited the abandoned Well and planned on 15th December, Sunday to clean it. According to plan we went to the village with tools and required equipment and started working from morning and pumped out the water which is giving bad smell, collected the used alcohol bottles of tractor load and the plastic waste used plates & soft drink bottles and covers. Cleared the bushes by evening we got to original status of the well.

I along with our team felt happy for the said service and getting glory to the abandoned well.



Cleaned the abandoned Heritage Well of centuries old in a Village Guvvalakunta – Nandyal Chapter

2. REPORT ON NANDI PRADAKSHINA- THE HERITAGE WALK

I submit that being a convener of the INTACH Nandyal Chapter I proposed a Heritage Walk to Nandi temples as a circuit in our Nandyal chapter and same was supported by all the members. Accordingly we planned a Heritage Walk weaving the ancient Nandi temples in and around Nandyal town in Nandyal district and they are Pradhama Nandi, Naga Nandi, Soma Nandi temples located within the Nandyal town limits and the temples Vinayaka Nandi, Garuda Nandi and Maha Nandi temples located in Mahanandi village which are in a distance of 18.8 Kilometers from Nandyal and Siva Nandi, Vishnu Nandi and Surya Nandi and all these temples are part of Nava Nandi temples.

A letter submitted to Sri Kandula Durgesh Garu Hon'ble minister for Tourism & Culture department of Andhra Pradesh requesting to help and instruct the district administration to extend the support to Nandi Pradakshina planned on 15-11-2024 on the occasion of Karthika Pournima. Further submitted a copy of said request letter to the Principal Secretary of Tourism and Cultural departments of Andhra Pradesh. In response to that the Principal Secretary of Tourism and Cultural departments of Andhra Pradesh addressed D.O letter to the District Collector Nandyal district to support the Heritage Walk i.e Nandi Pradakshina conducting by the INTACH Nandyal chapter. Meanwhile I submitted a request letter to the District Collector to support the Heritage Walk and involve the Tourism, Endowment, Health, Revenue, Police and other connected departments.

As a result of above all the efforts the District Collector and district Magistrate Smt. Gania Raja Kumari Garu convened a meeting on 06-11-2024 with INTACH, Nandyal chapter and line departments in connection with the Heritage Walk event and given instructions to coordinate all the line departments especially Tourism, Endowment, Health, Revenue departments.

The Nandyal chapter invited Hon'ble Minister Sri Md. Farooq who is the MLA of Nandyal and Smt B.Sabari M.P Nandyal Sri B. Rajasekhar Reddy MLA of the Atmakur constituency for Nandi Pradakshina Heritage Walk.

To create an awareness on the scheduled event of Nandi Pradakshina -Heritage Walk from Pradama Nandi to Maha Nandi the INTACH, Nandyal Chapter started propaganda in Colleges, Schools, and public gathering places to motivate and invite them to the said Nandi Pradakshina. The service organisations Like MANA OORU MANA GUDI MANA BADYATHA and others involved in motivating public. Being convener of INTACH, Nandyal chapter personally acted as an ambassador for the event.

To connect the people to the Nandi Pradakshina -Heritage Walk we planned pre-events like Nandiki Vandanam i.e honoring Nandi/ Bulls and motivated the farmers and other owners of the Bull owners in the district with the help of farmers association and support of Animal Husbandry department on 04-11-2024 i.e first Monday of Karthika Masam for which good response received from the entire Nandyal district. Further in part of promotion of said event we called for MUDRA for NANDI to give palm print on Canvass and form the NANDI with different colors by the people on 13th November.

The event of Nandi Pradakshina planned in such a manner to highlight the circuit of Nandi temples and its significance and Heritage and arranged the nine Nandis/ Bulls walk in front and cultural programs like Kolatam the Folk dance by the girls in traditional dress and Nandi Kollu dance which performed by devotees of Lord Siva of this district and Chande Melam i.e drums music and the Bullock Cart and more than 2000 people especially youth participated with festive mood.

The event started at 7.40 a.m and all the participants walked the entire 18.8 Kilometers distance from Pradhama Nandi to Mahanandi and reached at 4 p.m.

The Nandyal Chapter made arrangements of breakfast and drinking water etc,. And on the way the villagers welcomed with Aarathi i.e traditional welcoming as this type of event is first in such a manner and Nine Nandi's passing through their villages and they offered snacks, butter milk and dry fruits to the participants of Heritage Walk.

In this Heritage Walk cooperation from all the service organisations like Rotary and Lions club, MANA OORU MANA GUDI MANA BADIYATHA and other organisations like committees of temples. Finally, the efforts of INTACH Nandyal chapter in conducting Nandi Pradakshina -Heritage Walk resulted in thumping response to the Heritage Walk and the people wanting to make it tradition in future and every year. All these are possible with INTACH guidance and support only. The Nandyal Chapter is thankful to your support and guidance.



Nandi Pradakshina- The Heritage Walk- Nandyal Chapter

Srikakulam

1. Dusi Railway Station to be Recognized as a Gandhi Memorial: INTACH Srikakulam's Efforts

As part of the process to recognize Dusi Railway Station in Srikakulam district as a Gandhi Memorial Landmark, INTACH Srikakulam Chapter has been undertaking various initiatives. Additional Convener Vavilapalli Jagannatha Naidu, Senior Members Kommu Ramana Murthy, and Ponnada Ravi Kumar shared their views on these efforts in interviews with TV9 and iNews channels on 15-10-2024.

2. Discovery of Pre-Buddhist Era Idols in Budumuru Village Srikakulam, 20-01-2025: Several ancient idols, believed to be from the pre-Buddhist era, have been discovered in Budumuru village, Laveru Mandal. Among these, the idol of Goddess Marichi, worshipped by locals as Omaravalli Amma, is particularly significant. The presence of a goddess idol seated on an elephant suggests worship traditions predating the Buddhist period.

Recently, during the construction of a Durga temple by village elders, several ancient idols were unearthed, including a Buddha idol, which was set aside. The INTACH Srikakulam team visited the village to examine these findings. Team members Nuka Sanyasi Rao, Vavilapalli Jagannatha Naidu, and Dr. Chintada Krishnamohan conducted a detailed study.

The team inferred that these idols might belong to the Kalinga Ganga era and highlighted the deep influence of Buddhist traditions in the region. They plan to send the discovered idol images to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) for further analysis.

3. Focus on Future Action Plan: INTACH Director G.P. Aravind Shukla

- INTACH Srikakulam Representatives Meet Director in Delhi
- Recognition for Srikakulam Chapter's Contributions
- Plans for Expanding Heritage and Tourism Conservation Efforts

Delhi/Srikakulam: INTACH Director G.P. Aravind Shukla has emphasized the need to focus on a future action plan for heritage conservation, tourism development, and the preservation of ancient structures in Srikakulam. INTACH Srikakulam representative Ponnada Ravi Kumar, along with other members, met him in Delhi to discuss ongoing and upcoming initiatives.

During the meeting, they highlighted the historical significance of Dusi Railway Station, where Mahatma Gandhi once walked. They proposed renaming the station after Gandhi and installing his statue. With the support of Union Minister Kinjaraapu Rammohan Naidu, they have already presented this request to GM Parameswaran and Visakhapatnam DRM.

Director Shukla appreciated the efforts of the Srikakulam chapter and encouraged further initiatives. The meeting also included Jalumuru Venkateswara Rao and other representatives.

4 Facilitated Farmers Day with children at Farm Field School in Tribal Children Education:

- ☐ Engaged children in interactive agricultural activities, teaching them traditional and modern farming techniques.
- ☐ Encouraged children to connect with their tribal heritage by understanding sustainable farming practices and the importance of biodiversity.
- ☐ Equipped children with practical skills in farming, fostering self-sufficiency and promoting agriculture as a viable livelihood option.

5. Preservation of Ancient Culture and Heritage: INTACH Srikakulam's Remarkable Efforts, Srikakulam, 27-01-2025:

Preserving ancient culture and traditions is the primary duty of INTACH, and the efforts of INTACH Srikakulam in this regard are commendable, stated R. Sanyasi Naidu, Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority.

On the occasion of the Foundation Day of INTACH (Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage), Vavilapalli Jagannatha Naidu, Additional Convener of INTACH Srikakulam, along with other members, visited the historic courthouse building constructed in 1910.

They emphasized that the government should take responsibility for its preservation.

During the event, they presented a cultural compendium of Srikakulam District published by INTACH to R. Sanyasi Naidu. He appreciated INTACH's efforts in safeguarding ancient arts, traditions, and heritage. Senior INTACH members Kommu Ramanamurthy, Ponnada Ravi Kumar, Advocate Gedela Indira Prasad, Public Prosecutor Vana Krishna Chand, and other legal professionals participated in the event.

Dutch Building Restoration Initiation

★Union Minister Ram Mohan Naidu

Srikakulam Special Correspondent - Seema Andhra Vision

The 300-year-old historical Dutch building located near the collector's office in Srikakulam will be restored. Union Minister Ram Mohan Naidu has announced that efforts will be made to protect and renovate this ancient structure, which has significant historical and architectural value.

During his visit, the minister inspected the building and discussed the restoration process with officials from the Archaeological Survey of India and other concerned departments. He emphasized that preserving such heritage structures is crucial for maintaining cultural identity.

The Dutch government had constructed this building during their reign, and it stands as a symbol of the region's colonial history. The restoration project is estimated to cost ₹100 crore, aiming to transform it into a major tourist attraction.

The Minister also highlighted the importance of heritage conservation and stated that similar efforts would be undertaken for other historical sites in Srikakulam.

Heritage Walk by INTACH members to Fort "Share Mahamadpuram" in Echarla Mandal, Srikakulam.

7. Minister Kandula Durgesh urged to promote temple tourism in Srikakulam district District representatives of INTACH and Air Travelers Association of India submit a memorandum on ancient temples in Srikakulam district to the Tourism Minister at Regional Tourism Investors Engagement

Nuka Sanyasi Rao, the district Convener of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), and Natukula Mohan, the district founder of the Air Travelers Association of India, urged Tourism Minister Kandula Durgesh to promote temple tourism in Srikakulam district on Monday. They participated in the Regional Tourism Investors Engagement meeting in Visakhapatnam and submitted a memorandum to the Minister about the ancient temples in the district.

Mr. Rao said that the Sun God temple at Arasavilli, Sri Kurmanatheswara temple in Srikurman, and Lord Shiva temple in Srimukhalingam could be included in the promotion of temple tourism. He joined Mr. Mohan in pressing for exclusive tourist buses from Visakhapatnam to Srikakulam, saying that the move would ensure quick tourism promotion in the district.

□ Mr. N. Sanyasi Rao - Convener represented to Sri. Koon. Ravi Kumar - MLA to protect the Dhathavarpu Kota - The capital city of ancient Kalinga is said to be the earliest Buddhist settlement in the entire south indian.

8. Annual General Body Meet of Srikakulam Chapter

□ The members are planed heritage walk and exposere with young students to build knowledge on culture and heritage of Srikakulam District.

□ Listing of heritage place in Srikakulam district students

□ Renovation of Douch building with the support of district collector Sri. Swapnil Dinkar Pundkar.

□ The coordination with Sri. Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu, Minister of Civil Aviation, Sri. K. Ravi Kumar (MLA)- Amdalavalasa and Sri. Parameswararan , General Manager of East Coast Railways.

□ Release of history of 75 years of Srikakulam District on the 15th August 2025 on eve of silver Jubilee celebration of District formation day.

Our INTACH - Srikakulam Chapter Life Member become a Vice Chanceler - Krishna University in Machilipatanam.

Prof. Raja, Vice Chairman of Krishna Youth Welfare, has been appointed as a Business Professor in Melbourne, Australia. An alumnus of Andhra University, he has over 20 years of experience in business management and financial studies. He has guided students in entrepreneurship and market strategies. His appointment is a proud achievement, recognizing his contributions to business education and leadership training. Prof. Raja credits his success to his mentors and well-wishers.

SRIKAKULAM

- India stands firm on its principles
- Strong friendship with America
- Continued role as a key global power
- Bridges stronger ties with neighboring countries



Dutch Building Restoration Initiation - Union Minister Ram Mohan Naidu inspected the building and discussed the restoration process with officials from the ASI- Srikakulam Chapter



Facilitated Farmers Day with children at Farm Field School in Tribal Children Education - Srikakulam Chapter

Visakhapatnam

1. Dr. D. Rajasekhar Reddy, Convener, INTACH Vizag Chapter met Shri Kandula Durgesh, Minister for Tourism, Andhra Pradesh State and discussed the details about the establishment of Vizag aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark at his Camp Office in Vijayawada on 21 November 2024.

2. On the eve of World Heritage Week, INTACH Visakhapatnam Chapter in association with Department of Archeology & Museum organized the Fossil and Coins Exhibition of personal collections by Mr. Venkatesh Kandula on 24-11-2024 at A.P. State Archeology Museum.

3. Dr. D. Rajasekhar Reddy, Convener and Life Member Shri Edward Paul attended the inauguration of Photo gallery showcasing the significance and specialties of the 111-year-old Visakhapatnam Collectorate on 25th November 2024 by Shri M.N. Harendhira Prasad, Visakhapatnam District Collector on the eve of World Heritage Week celebrations. Some of the photos kept in the gallery were from the collection of Mr. Edward Paul.

4. Dr. D. Rajasekhar Reddy, Convener, Visakhapatnam Chapter attended the Vizag Regional Investors Meet – Unlocking the Future of Tourism in Vizag Region organized by the Ministry of Tourism, Andhra Pradesh State on 27-1-2025 at Visakhapatnam.

5. Smt. Rani Sarma, former Convener, Visakhapatnam Chapter, Dr. D. Rajasekhar Reddy, Convener, Visakhapatnam Chapter and Mr. Sai Teja, Student Member and an Intern at Visakhapatnam Chapter attended the seminar on Preserving Heritage: Opportunities & Engagements organized by the Department of History, Gitam University, on 20th December and the following presentations were made by them.

A) Visakhapatnam's Buddhist Heritage – The Role of Youth in conservation, by Rani Sarma

B) Vizag, A Potential UNESCO Global Geopark – Role of Universities, by Dr. D. Rajasekhar Reddy

C) Gosthani River as a Catalyst for trade and cultural heritage - by Sai Teja

6. Visakhapatnam Chapter conducted an all India “Celebrating India – Intangible Cultural Heritage” poster and essay competition on 27th January 2025 at Hawa Mahal, the Heritage Building of the city. 157 students from 20 schools across the Vizag city participated in the competition. INTACH Vizag Convener Dr. D. Rajasekhar Reddy, Co-Convener, Dr. B. Surendra Kumar, Program Coordinators, Dr. Renuka Rani Maganti, Smt. Mayank Kumari Deo, Sri Edward Paul and members Smt. Sandhya Godey and Dr. Rahul Prasad ensured the smooth conduct of the event.

7. Dr. D. Rajasekhar Reddy, Convener, Visakhapatnam Chapter attended the “Vizag Regional Investors Meet – Unlocking the Future of Tourism in Vizag Region” organized by Ministry of Tourism, Andhra Pradesh State at Visakhapatnam on 7th January 2025.

8. Dr. D. Rajasekhar Reddy, Convener, Visakhapatnam Chapter and Dr. Renuka Rani Maganti participated in the Field trip to Erra Matti Dibbalu, Natural Arch and other Beach area with INTACH Heritage Club Students of Visakha Valley School to promote geographical and geological awareness.

9. INTACH Vizag Chapter organized One-Day Heritage Tour to Etikoppaka, a famous wooden toys making craft village, Kondakarla Ava, a famous water body and Bojjanna Konda a well-known Buddhist heritage site on 23rd Feb.



"Celebrating India – Intangible Cultural Heritage" poster and essay competition – Visakhapatnam Chapter



Dr. D. Rajasekhar Reddy explaining to the students the geological Process – Response systems in coastal environments – Visakhapatnam Chapter

Assam

1. National Seminar on Cultural Materialism of Ancient Northeast India held at Cotton University

The two-day National Seminar on Cultural Materialism of Ancient Northeast India, held on the 27th and 28th of January at Cotton University, brought together scholars and academicians to explore the rich cultural and material heritage of the region. Organised by the Pragjyotish Centre for Cultural Research (PCCR) in collaboration with the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS), Kolkata; the Department of Archaeology of Cotton University; Kamrup Chapter of INTACH and Scientific Temperament, Assam, the seminar aimed to promote a deeper understanding of Northeast India's archaeological and cultural identity.

The inaugural session began with the National Anthem, followed by a welcome address by Dr. Manjil Hazarika, Assistant Professor of Archaeology, Cotton University. Phanindra Talukdar, Secretary of PCCR, outlined the seminar's objectives. Prof. Ramesh Ch. Deka, Vice-Chancellor of Cotton University, inaugurated the seminar and released the *Book of Abstracts*. The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Chandan Kumar Sarma of Tezpur University, who emphasized the critical need for deeper exploration of Northeast India's archaeological, linguistic and cultural history. He also released a book titled "Movements Through Time and Space: Ecology and Lingua-Cultural Change in South and Southeast Asia", edited by Nishant Choksi, J.A.H. Khatri, Manzil Hazarika and Phanindra Talukdar and published by Pragjyotish Centre for Cultural Research.

Among the Guests of Honor, Prof. Vinay Kumar Rao of Jawaharlal Nehru University and Executive Member of MAKAIAS shared his thoughts on the archaeological and historical sources and their inter-connectedness with other parts of India. Shri Hemanta Dhing Mazumdar, National General Secretary of the Akhil Bharatiya Itihas Sankalan Yojana, spoke on the importance of preserving Northeast India's historical identity and natural heritage. Prof. Shiela Bora, Convener of Assam Chapter of INTACH, highlighted the critical role of local communities in conservation efforts.

A significant highlight of the event was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Cotton University and the Directorate of Museums, Govt. of Assam. The MoU aims to promote collaborative research, documentation, and conservation of Assam's archaeological and cultural assets. This partnership is expected to bring new opportunities for preserving the region's heritage. The Director of the Assam State Museum, Sri Arindom Baruah, during his address, discussed the challenges in conservation and strategies for sustainable preservation of the region's artifacts and monuments. Dr. Ritika Sahu, Head (i/c) of the Department of Archaeology delivered the vote of thanks.

The seminar featured distinguished resource persons, such as Dr. Gajendra Adhikari from Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardeva Viswavidyalaya, Dr. Jonali Devi from Cotton University, Dr. Sangeeta Gogoi from the Department of Historical and Antiquarian Studies, Dr. Raktim Patar from Jawaharlal Nehru University, Dr. Nagendra Rawat from H.N.B. Garhwal University, Dr. Kulbhushan Mishra from Central University of Haryana, and Dr. J.A.H. Khatri from Navarachna University.

The seminar has drawn participation from scholars, researchers, and academicians across the country from various institutions such as Delhi School of Economics, University of Lucknow, Navrachna University, North-Eastern Hill University, Royal Global University, Majuli University of Culture, Manipur University, Dibrugarh University, Gauhati University, Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Teachers' Training & Research Institute, Krishnaguru Adhyatmic Viswavidyalaya, Global University of Uttar Pradesh, Pleach India Foundation of Hyderabad, Dimasa Heritage Museum and Dishru Research Centre; Department of Archaeology of Haflong and Central University of Technology of Kokrajhar, besides Cotton University.

The papers presented in the seminar would be published in a book form, announced by the Conveners of the seminar, Shi Phanindra Talukdar and Dr. Manjil Hazarika.



National Seminar on Cultural Materialism of Ancient Northeast India held at Cotton University – Assam Chapter

2. Report on the Oral Literature Festival held at Royal Global University

The Assam Royal Global University (RGU), Guwahati and the Assam State Chapter of INTACH as its Academic partner, in collaboration with IMASI, the Maharaj Kumar Binodini Devi Foundation of Manipur, held the Festival, Listener: Brahmaputra, a literary festival celebrating oral literature from February 10-12, 2025. The third edition of this one-of-a-kind festival of the oral literature of NER, was curated by Prof. Shiela Bora, Convener of the Assam State Chapter of INTACH, as its Festival Director. The opening of the Festival on February 10th and a day-long series of programs and sessions on February 11th was held at the Royal Global University while the concluding day of the festival on the 12th, was on the Kohuwa Bon, a cruise ship on the Brahmaputra.

The objective of the festival is to reach out from the NER across the country and the globe to artists and scholars of the root's literatures with emphasis on preservation issues and orality of non-text and pre-text traditions. It aims to present, document and archive the intangible cultural heritage traditions of NER using technology. The Festival will be graced by several eminent scholars of language and literature from across the world, including Ms Diana Mickeviciene, the Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania to the Republic of India.

The festival was inaugurated on February 10th by a welcome address by Prof Shiela Bora, the Festival Director. This was followed by the offering of the Pali Theravada Buddhist prayer by Venerable Moseng Mantaw and Venerable Khetseng Singkal from Arunachal Pradesh, as a traditional mode of celebrating literature.

Diana Mickeviciene, Ambassador from the Republic of Lithuania to India, was the guest of honor. Speaking on the occasion as the Chief Guest, Prof. YSR Murthy, Vice Chancellor of The Assam Royal Global University, shared the importance of transference of literature from one generation to the next and the role played by oral and written scripts in passing down traditions, culture, history, and human experiences through civilizations. Prof. Murthy also threw light upon the importance of words, actions, and knowledge, in all forms inclusive of folklore, songs, stories, music recitals et al., the power they bear and how they stitch together life on Earth.

In his keynote address, Stephen Morey traced his linguistic research in Assam since 1996, dedicating his work to Nabin Shyam Phalung, the first person he met in the region. He explored Tai languages, manuscript studies, and the diverse oral traditions of Northeast India, including Tangsa songs, Bihu songs, and Singpho water-flowing songs. He presented the region as a linguistic hotspot and displayed a language map of Northeast India, highlighting its incredible diversity.

On the second day the festival started with an audiovisual presentation that explored the cultural, ecological, and social dimensions of the Brahmaputra, including boat clinics, floodplain communities, and transboundary water concerns by Sanjoy Hazarika, International Director of the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative. In another session, Mr. Rishi Barua and Mr. Saumya Chakravarti presented archival recordings, films, and photographs that showcased Mr. Nihar Barua's contributions to Assamese traditional music from Goalpara, amongst a host of other artists.

Further, members from the Oraon tribe of Assam showcased prayer songs of the Sarna religion and the different rituals of the community and their strong relation with nature. The exposition regarding the tribe and religion's traditions as well as the translation for the songs were given by Manisha Xalxo, of the Oraon tribe.

This festival also included cultural performance by Milda Varnauskaite, centred on historical and contemporary storytelling from Lithuania, introducing the smoke-sauna tradition of Lithuania, and linking it with the folklore of the Laumės, fairy-like creatures from Lithuanian culture in the august presence of Diana Mickeviciene.

A performance by Takhellambam Shyamkanhai Singh based on an episode from the Mahabharata, in traditional Manipuri Wari Liba style, of the encounter between Arjuna of the Pandavas and Ashwathamma and the latter's death, followed by a discussion regarding Wari Liba as an art form, was an important addition to the second day's programme..

Prof. Shobhana Chelliah from Indiana University presented her work on digital documentation of oral literature, highlighting the Collaborative Research Center for South Asian Languages (CoRSAL). Moderated by Kellen Parker van Dam, the session emphasized digitization, language repositories, and preservation efforts. The second day's session concluded with the Book Launch of Binodini's Crimson Rain Clouds: A Learning Module.

As the second day drew to a close, the grand dinner at the Dhaba of The Assam Royal Global University was a feast in every sense—both culinary and cultural and provided a fitting finale. Old-Fashioned Pork Nuoshi (Non-veg) or tender cubes of smoked pork simmered in a decadent dark yam sauce, infused with mong-mong jang and dried napa - Naga basil flowers, together with Konger Amruso (Veg), a luscious rice broth infused with oyster, shitake, mushrooms, sumac, ginger, and garlic leaves and Rosup (Veg) or a vibrant medley of mong-mong leaves, eggplant, and kidney beans, slow-cooked with bamboo vinegar for a distinctive tangy depth, provided a glimpse of the rich culinary heritage of Nagaland.

Sailing aboard a Cruise on the M.V. Kohuwa Bon on the 3rd day of the Festival was an experience filled with enchantment, where every session unfolded like a story waiting to be told. While the entire day was a treasure trove of cultural immersion, a few moments left an especially profound impact.

The session on Bodo Story telling by Dr. Pompi Basumatary transported the participants deep into the heart of Bodo oral traditions, weaving narratives that felt both ancient and timeless. Jahumroy Singpho's presentation on Singpho Laika and tea tasting of the original handmade Singpho tea was a sensory journey through heritage, where every sip carried whispers of tradition. ✨

Dhiraj Rabha's heartfelt storytelling beautifully captured the essence of oral traditions passed down through generations, evoking a deep sense of nostalgia and connection through his pictorial presentation called, ONGARI: Stories from My Mother.

As the night unfolded, the rhythm of music and dance brought everyone together, turning the farewell into a celebration of shared stories, laughter, and cultural pride. A truly unforgettable experience, etched in memory long after the festival's end.



The Singpho women demonstrating the traditional method of preparing tea – Assam Chapter



The Oraon tea community of Assam narrating their ritual of Sarna – Assam Chapter



The Karbi group in their traditional dress and musical instruments with Prof. Stephen Morey – Assam Chapter

Bihar

Nawada

1. Report of 'Heritage Bachao Yatra' under 'Heritage Bachao Abhiyan'

It is submitted that the decision mentioned above was made during the INTACH Nawada Chapter meeting held on 14/02/24. Following this, the '*Heritage Bachao Yatra*' commenced from the mythological *Shobh Mandir* on 12/02/25. During the Yatra, the attention of the District Administration and Municipal Council was drawn to the deteriorating condition and neglect of the Shobha Mandir premises and the pond.

The Yatra concluded at Jeevan Deep School, where the teachers, under the leadership of the school director Dr. Eklavya, warmly welcomed the heritage enthusiasts. Following the welcome, about 150 students participated in a session on the importance of preserving heritage in the school's large hall.

Presiding over the program, Nawada Chapter President Prof. Bachchan Kumar Pandey provided insights into INTACH's activities and urged the students to safeguard the region's mythological heritage, important archaeological statues, and key elements of folk culture. The meeting was also addressed by Dr. Subodh Kumar, Shri Surendra Kumar, Manish Sinha, Mahendra Prasad Singh, Arjun Yadav, Shyamsundar Dubey, Shri Ram Naresh Singh, Sundar Prasad, Rakesh Ranjan Pandey, Manmohan Krishna, and others.

2. Trainers from Banaras to teach Kaithi Script preservation and awareness

The INTACH Nawada Chapter has initiated an innovative effort to promote and preserve the Kaithi script, which was historically used as a writing system in the Hindi belt region. They are organizing a three-day training session in Nawada to teach and raise awareness about the Kaithi script, a script that has been used for decades.

The training will take place from 22nd March at Project Kanya Inter Vidyalaya in Nawada city. Approximately 300 youth from Nawada and surrounding areas will have the opportunity to learn how to write, read, and understand the Kaithi script. Experts from different locations who are proficient in the script will be coming to Nawada to conduct the training. Prof. Bachchan Kumar Pandey, Convener, INTACH Nawada Chapter, stated that the training-cum-workshop will be held from 22 to 24 March, during which participants will be taught by experts. Registration for the workshop is open until 22nd March, with both online and offline applications being accepted. Interested individuals can contact Mobile no. 8541880038 and INTACH Life Member Surendra Kumar (9431617295) for registration. Certificates will be awarded to participants upon completion of the program. Priority will be given to revenue employees, court officials, advocates, teachers, female teachers, and research students.

Importance of Kaithi Script in the Ongoing Land Survey

The significance of the Kaithi script has recently gained attention during the ongoing land survey across Bihar. Many land-related documents, such as Kebala (deeds), are written in Kaithi, making knowledge of the script essential for reading and interpreting these documents. However, there is currently a shortage of people who can read Kaithi, causing difficulties for both the public and officials. Even those with some knowledge of the script charge up to a thousand rupees for their assistance.

Prof. Bachchan Pandey emphasized that advocates and other professionals involved in land disputes should have a basic understanding of the Kaithi script. Without this knowledge, it is difficult to resolve land-related issues properly. Revenue employees and district archive staff also need to learn Kaithi to obtain accurate information about land records. Additionally, bank employees should be trained in the script to handle land-related loan processes smoothly.

Kaithi Script's Historical Importance

Kaithi script was widely used in Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa, and Jharkhand for many years. Research scholar Pritam Kumar explained that even after independence, the script was commonly known and used until the 1960s and 1970s. However, over time, it fell into disuse and is now on the brink of extinction. Pritam Kumar stressed the continued relevance of Kaithi script and the need for its preservation.

Scholars, including Pritam Kumar, Kalpana Kumari, and Bakar Ahmed, will participate in the training program to help revive and preserve the Kaithi script.

Patna

Seminar organised on INTACH foundation day, diary and planner based on Kaithi script and Nalanda seal launched

To mark the Foundation Day of the INTACH, a scholarly seminar was organized at Vidyapati Bhawan under the joint aegis of Maithili Sahitya Sansthan, INTACH Patna Chapter, Your Heritage, and All My Craft.

During the event, a diary, planner, passport cover, and money wallet—all inspired by the Kaithi script—were launched, along with a replica of the world-famous seal of ancient Nalanda University. These products were developed in collaboration with Your Heritage and All My Craft, organizations dedicated to the conservation and promotion of cultural heritage.

Key Discussions and Insights.

The keynote speaker, renowned educationist Prof. Wasi Ahmed delivered an engaging talk on the history of Patna and its rich architectural heritage. He vividly described the city's evolution through the Mauryan, Gupta, Mughal, and British periods, emphasizing that heritage preservation is not solely the government's responsibility but a collective duty of the people.

Dr. Umesh Chandra Dwivedi, Former Director of Bihar Museum, highlighted that a sense of pride in our heritage is essential for its preservation. Umesh Mishra, Secretary of Chetna Samiti, stressed that heritage is not confined to cities but extends to rural areas as well.

Welcoming the guests, INTACH Patna Chapter Convener Bhairav Lal Das underscored the importance of organizing such events to raise awareness about endangered heritage. He pointed out that Kaithi script was historically used for Maithili, Bhojpuri, and Magahi, making it a shared cultural treasure.

Deepak Bakshi elaborated on Patna's global significance, while Rachna Priyadarshini, Director of Your Heritage, emphasized that scripts, languages, and symbols are crucial elements of cultural heritage, as they provide a deep connection to history and identity. Prashant Priyadarshini of All My Craft noted that the best way to engage people with heritage is through products that integrate cultural elements, fostering awareness and appreciation.

In her vote of thanks, Aditi Gupta reminded the audience that Pataliputra is one of the world's oldest cities, and its legacy continues to thrive today. The event was successfully coordinated with the support of Savita Upadhyay and Prem Shankar. The seminar was attended by distinguished guests, including Prof. Veena Amrit, Bipin Kumar Dutta, Kadambani Sinha, and Shiv Kumar Mishra, among others.

Chhattisgarh Mahasamund

INTACH Mahasamund Chapter, Chhattisgarh organized a special event at Vishram Bhawan to mark Wildlife Day. On this occasion, Chhattisgarh Chapter Convener, Arvind Mishra emphasized the need for conserving endangered wildlife species in the state, including the fox, crow, sparrow, myna, and wild buffalo. He highlighted the relevance of ancient scriptures, where animals are revered as the sacred vehicles of deities, and their significance in today's context.

Dr. Rakesh Tiwari, Convener, Raipur Chapter, discussed the importance of wildlife conservation within the framework of INTACH's objectives. Mahasamund Convener, Daulal Chandra, elaborated on INTACH's collaboration with the Forest Department and its efforts to promote Sirpur as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Renowned educationist and poet, Mrs. Chandrasen, along with celebrated poet Ashok Sharma, presented a compelling poem on wildlife conservation and environmental protection. Principal Shri Chandrakar urged action on heritage conservation beyond theoretical discussions. Co-Convener Shri Rajeshwar Khare expressed concerns about the increasing commercialization of forests and the resulting threats to local wildlife.

Dr. Ramgopal Yadav shed light on the declining populations of birds and animals, while esteemed literary figure Shri Tekram Sen captivated the audience with insightful discussions while hosting the event.

The program witnessed enthusiastic participation from local citizens, teachers, and students, reflecting their keen interest in wildlife conservation.

Saraipali

INTACH Saraipali Chapter (Chhattisgarh) organized a painting and writing competition aimed at nurturing the artistic and literary skills of school students. Participants created paintings and essays depicting "Real Heroes"—those who contributed to India's prosperity, independence, and cultural heritage.

The competition saw enthusiastic participation with students illustrating figures such as Bhagat Singh, Mata Raj Mohini Devi, Mahatma Gandhi, Swami Vivekananda, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Sir C.V. Raman, Jyotiba Phule, Savitribai Phule, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Rani Lakshmibai, Rani Durgavati, Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, Salumarada Thimmakka, Kiran Bedi, and others.

The students created vibrant portraits of notable figures such as Bhagat Singh, Mata Raj Mohini Devi, Saint Shri Gahira Guru, Mahatma Gandhi, Swami Vivekananda, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Sir C.V. Raman, Jyotiba Phule, Savitri Bai Phule, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Rani Lakshmibai, Rani Durgavati, Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, Salumarada Thimmakka, Kiran Bedi, Swami Atmanand, Khudiram Bose, Mangal Pandey, Chandrashekhar Azad, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Pandit Madhavrao Sapre, Maharana Pratap, Matangini Hazra, Ramprasad Bismil, Pandit Sundarlal Sharma, and others. They also wrote about their contributions, presenting them as true heroes, and deepened their understanding of these icons. The students were greatly inspired by these figures, and this experience will help guide them toward a brighter future.

Co-Convener Radheshyam Chaudhary and life members Vishwajit Gupta and Pushpanjali Chaudhary played key roles in organizing the event. The program provided students with inspiration and a deeper understanding of the nation's historical figures.

Gujarat Bhavnagar

1. INTACH National Quiz – Gujarat State Finals

The young students of Kumarshala, an institutional member of INTACH, showcased their knowledge and competitive spirit by securing the first runners-up position in the INTACH National Quiz Gujarat State Finals held in Vadodara. The students had earlier qualified for this prestigious event by securing first place in the Bhavnagar city round, which was conducted at the historic Nilambag Palace.

Their commendable performance at the state level highlights their dedication to heritage awareness and learning. The INTACH Bhavnagar Chapter extends its heartfelt congratulations to the students and their mentors for their efforts and achievements.



INTACH National Quiz – Gujarat State Finals - Bhavnagar Chapter

2. Railway Museum Visit

The INTACH Bhavnagar Chapter organized an exclusive visit to the Railway Museum for the members of the Interact Club of Bhavnagar Royal. Led by team member Jalpa, the tour provided young participants with an insightful journey into Bhavnagar's rich railway heritage.

3. Heritage Walk

The INTACH Bhavnagar Chapter organized a morning heritage walk for the members of the Interact Club of Bhavnagar Royal, offering them an immersive experience into the city's rich history. Led by INTACH member Karan, the walk took participants through key heritage landmarks, narrating stories of Bhavnagar's architectural, cultural, and historical significance.



Heritage Walk - Bhavnagar Chapter

4. World Heritage Week 2024 Opening Ceremony

The World Heritage Week in Bhavnagar commenced with a melodious musical evening, celebrating the city's rich heritage through the universal language of music. Three esteemed women singers—Swatiben, Bhavnaben, and Pushtiben—each representing a different generation, performed alongside a talented team of musicians, weaving together Bhavnagar's past, present, and future through soulful melodies.



Opening Ceremony of the World Heritage Week - Bhavnagar Chapter

Different Activities During World Heritage Week

i. Khodidas Shaili Workshop

The Khodidas Shaili Workshop was a significant highlight of the World Heritage Week celebrations, offering participants an insightful experience into the unique artistic style of Khodidas. Curated by Ajay Chauhan, the session provided a platform for creative exploration and appreciation of this distinctive art form.



Khodidas Shaili Workshop - Bhavnagar Chapter

ii. Tie Dye Workshop

The Tie Dye Workshop by Krut Kala was a vibrant and interactive session that beautifully blended creativity with tradition. Participants engaged in the intricate art of tie-dye, exploring its cultural significance and hands-on techniques. This engaging workshop added a dynamic touch to the World Heritage Week celebrations, encouraging the preservation and appreciation of traditional crafts.



Tie Dye Workshop - Bhavnagar Chapter

iii. Macrame Workshop

The Macrame Workshop by The Black Brush was a wonderful addition to the World Heritage Week celebrations, offering participants an engaging experience in the intricate art of macrame threading. This interactive session beautifully blended creativity with tradition, allowing attendees to explore a timeless craft while fostering appreciation for handmade artistry.



Macrame Workshop - Bhavnagar Chapter

5. Exhibition at Different Heritage Sites

The Exhibition at Different Heritage Sites provided school students with a unique opportunity to explore the rich history and culture of Bhavnagar. Through engaging displays, they interacted with heritage stories, admired historical artifacts, and gained a deeper understanding of the importance of preserving cultural treasures. This initiative aimed to inspire young minds to appreciate and safeguard their heritage, making the World Heritage Week celebrations both educational and memorable.

Nilambag Palace hosted a portrait and photography exhibition. Before the advent of photography, portraiture was an important tool for documenting people and places. Photography gained popularity later in the 19th century. Bhavnagar's Prince Studio, established in 1938, played a vital role in documenting the city's history, including significant events such as Maharaja Krishnakumar Sinhji's gift of the Gir Cow to Brazil. The studio has evolved alongside photography technology, transitioning from glass negatives to digital formats, and continues to preserve Bhavnagar's heritage.

The Sheth J.P. Ayurvedic College exhibition showcased Bhavnagar's educational history through photographs of schools, highlighting their architectural and educational evolution. Shri Nandkuvarba Kshatriya Kanya Vidyalaya, Shri Kumarshala, Silver Bells, Amar Jyoti International School, Amar Jyoti School, Gharshala, and St. Xavier's were among the many schools that collaborated at this heritage site. The exhibition emphasized Bhavnagar's long-standing commitment to education, from its pioneering beginnings to its modern institutions.

Darbari Kothar, Bhavnagar's public granary and an engineering marvel of its time, was transformed into an art gallery for World Heritage Week. Curated by Ajay Chauhan, the exhibition showcased works by leading Bhavnagar artists, each depicting the city's landmarks in their unique styles. The artworks offered fresh perspectives on Bhavnagar's heritage, capturing its history, culture, and architectural beauty while demonstrating the enduring influence of the past on contemporary art.

Raj Samadhi in Bhavnagar, a monument housing the royal family's chhatris, hosted an exhibition of sculptures that enhanced its historical significance. The sandstone chhatris themselves feature carvings of animals symbolizing virtues.

The exhibition showcased:

Mahendra Rathod's wood carvings of Bhavnagar landmarks, including Thapnath Mahadev, Ganga Deri, and a vintage royal Mercedes.

Ajit Varma's papier-mâché sculptures of animals and birds, reflecting nature and grace. Preyas Mehta's sculptures, along with porcelain books by Rama Rawat and nude busts by G. Reghu and J. K. Chillar, celebrating Bhavnagar's legacy of learning and artistic culture.

The exhibition connected art and history, offering a deeper understanding of Bhavnagar's royal heritage and artistic spirit.

The "Craft roots of Saurashtra" exhibition at Gandhi Smriti celebrated the textile and craft traditions of Bhavnagar and the Saurashtra region. Curated by Bhagyashree Mehta, Co-Convener of INTACH Bhavnagar, the exhibition showcased hand-embroidered textiles (especially from the Patel and Kathi communities, featuring motifs like peacocks and elephants) and beadwork (Moti Bharat) used in daily life, weddings, and home décor. The exhibition highlighted the importance of supporting local artisans and preserving these endangered crafts, while also offering interactive workshops and bridging traditional techniques with contemporary creativity. It emphasized Bhavnagar's history as a 'kala Nagri' or 'art city.'

Bhavnagar's Modernist: Rajoo Parekh" at Alfred High School: This exhibition celebrated the work of modernist artist Rajoo Parekh, known for his lyrical, poetic surrealism and focus on exposing societal hypocrisies. His art is influenced by the Progressive Artists' Group (PAG) and reflects his inner conflict, often through vibrant landscapes.

"Bhavnagar's architecture through the lens of leading photographers" at Barton Library: Curated by Uday Bhatt, this exhibition showcased Bhavnagar's architectural heritage through the photography of six local artists. The exhibition highlighted photography's power to capture the emotional connection to a place.

6. Poetry Competition

The Poetry Competition held during World Heritage Week 2024 at Barton Library. Organized by Bulbul Barton, the event brought together poetic expressions that highlighted heritage, culture, and history. It provided a platform for participants to channel their creativity while reflecting on the significance of preserving cultural legacies



Poetry Competition - Bhavnagar Chapter

7. The INTACH Member Meeting for Barton Library focused on the future of the library and its role in preserving Bhavnagar's heritage. INTACH members, heritage experts, and local authorities gathered to discuss strategies for preserving collections, improving accessibility, and creating engaging programs.

8. Global Academic Dialogue

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the three distinguished scholars, Dr. R. Charles Weller, Dr. R.S. Khangarot, and Prof. Hitesh D. Raviya, for an inspiring and intellectually enriching session. Their profound insights highlighted the regional, national, and global significance of dialogue and exchange between the East and West.



Global Academic Dialogue - Bhavnagar Chapter

9. Heritage Walk

Heritage interpreter Tirth led Professor Charles, Professor Khangarot, and their family on a fascinating tour, exploring the city's rich culture and timeless stories.



Heritage Walk - Bhavnagar Chapter

10. Ply split braiding workshop

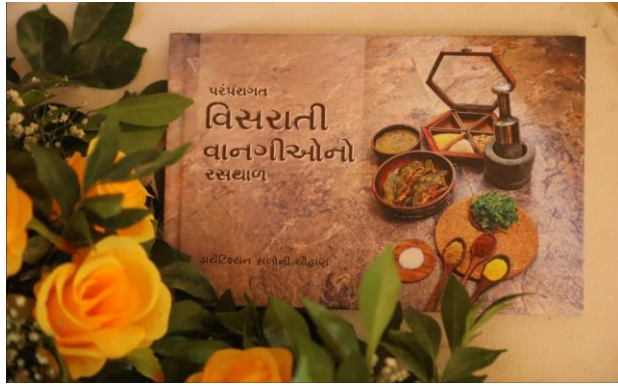
A weekend of ply split braiding with Professor Erroll Pires was an enriching experience for all participants. A retired professor from the National Institute of Design, Professor Erroll has dedicated decades to mastering the art of ply split braiding. Having exhibited at renowned museums internationally, he generously shared his expertise through four workshops hosted at Nilambag Palace. This unique opportunity allowed students to learn directly from a master of the craft, gaining valuable insights into this intricate art form.



Ply split braiding workshop - Bhavnagar Chapter

11. Book Launching

Celebrating Gujarat's culinary heritage with the book launch of 'Visarati Vangio no Rasthal'. The book a collaboration with INTACH Bhavnagar, is a documentation of traditional recipes of the region. Available to order and accessible at Gujarat's libraries and education institutes.



Book Launch of 'Visarati Vangio no Rasthal' - Bhavnagar Chapter

12. Mata Ni Pachedi WorkShop

The inclusive workshop on the vibrant Gujarati folk art of Mata Ni Pachedi, led by Padma Shree Awardee Bhanubhai Chunaril Chitara and his son, National Awardee Maheshbhai Chitara successfully concluded at Nilambag Palace. Participants immersed themselves in the intricate designs, sacred stories, and timeless traditions of this heritage art form. A heartfelt thank you to IGNCA Vadodara for their collaboration under the National Mission on Cultural Mapping (NMCM) project, making this workshop a truly enriching experience!



Mata Ni Pachedi Workshop- Bhavnagar Chapter

13. Khel Utsav

A celebration of Heritage Games in collaboration with Bhavnagar Heritage and Small Wonders Bhavnagar and hosted by Nilambag Palace, 'Khel Utsav' aimed to encourage youngsters to spend time amidst nature and enjoy the outdoors.



Khel Utsav - Bhavnagar Chapter

Rajkot

1. World Heritage Week 2024 Celebration

Talk on Natural Heritage of Saurashtra by Akash Bhatt

Talk on Cultural Heritage of Saurashtra by Chetas Oza

[de-pict] Heritage: Live Sketch - Paint - Illustrate coordinated by Manoj Gohil

Workshop on Tie & Dye by Rashmi Dattani

Rajasthani Folk Musical by Mir Basu Barkat Khan

The INTACH Rajkot Chapter celebrated World Heritage Week 2024 with a series of engaging events aimed at fostering heritage awareness and appreciation. The celebrations featured insightful talks on 'Natural Heritage of Saurashtra by Akash Bhatt' and 'Cultural Heritage of Saurashtra by Chetas Oza', highlighting the region's ecological and historical significance. An interactive session, '[de-pict] Heritage: Live Sketch - Paint - Illustrate, coordinated by Manoj Gohil', encouraged participants to artistically express their connection to heritage through visual storytelling. A 'hands-on Tie & Dye Workshop by Rashmi Dattani' introduced participants to the traditional textile art of Gujarat, emphasizing the need to preserve indigenous crafts. The week concluded with a mesmerizing 'Rajasthani Folk Musical performance by Mir Basu Barkat Khan', celebrating India's rich oral and musical traditions. Through these diverse initiatives, the INTACH Rajkot Chapter reaffirmed its commitment to heritage conservation, engaging the community in meaningful dialogues and creative expressions to safeguard cultural and natural legacies.





World Heritage Week 2024 Celebration – Rajkot Chapter

2. INTACH Rajkot Chapter successfully conducted the first-ever Heritage Education Campaign for Government Schools of Rajkot District - A significant step towards preserving and celebrating Rajkot's rich legacy. Spanned across 2 months; 3000+ students & 150+ teachers from 18 PM ShRI schools participated in this unique program.

The campaign features visits to prominent heritage sites such as Watson Museum, Lang Library, Mahatma Gandhi Museum, and KaBa Gandhi no Delo, allowing students to experience the region's history and culture firsthand.

The campaign aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which emphasizes holistic student development by integrating cultural education into the curriculum. It also complements the objectives of PM SHRI (Prime Minister Schools for Rising India) Schools, which aim to provide exemplary educational practices, including heritage education. 18 PM SHRI Schools from across Rajkot District have been included in this initiative, serving as trailblazers in integrating heritage education with academic excellence.

Speaking about the campaign, Rajkot District Collector and District Magistrate Shri. Prabhav Joshi, IAS, said:

"Our heritage is our pride and responsibility. This program will highlight the importance of regional heritage, ensuring that young minds develop a deep appreciation for it. Introducing such initiatives in schools will have a positive impact on heritage awareness and its maintenance for future generations."

Rajkot Chapter of INTACH extends their heartfelt gratitude to Rajkot Chapter Patron Shri. Prabhav Joshi; Collector & DM of Rajkot District and the District Education Office for this incredible opportunity to foster heritage education among the students of PM SHRI Schools of Rajkot District. A special thanks to Respected Deputy Collector, Ms. Rashmi Rajawada for ensuring a smooth and meaningful execution of the program and Mrs. Sonalben for excellent coordination with schools.

Key Highlights of the Campaign:

Heritage Walks and Site Visits: Visits to iconic local sites such as Watson Museum, Lang Library, Mahatma Gandhi Museum, and Ka Ba Gandhi no Delo will help students connect with the historical and cultural richness of Saurashtra-Gujarat.

Workshops and Interactive Sessions: Students will engage in workshops that integrate cultural and heritage education into active learning experiences.

Creative Competitions: Art, essay, and quiz competitions will enable students to reflect creatively on their understanding of heritage.

Capacity Building for Educators: Training sessions for teachers will equip them to effectively incorporate heritage education into the curriculum, in line with NEP 2020 guidelines.

Ms. Riddhi Shah, Convener of INTACH Rajkot Chapter, expressed her gratitude to Ms. Purnima Dutt, Director of Heritage Education and Communication Services (HECS) Division of INTACH, Delhi, and Dr. Kalpa Manek, Head of the History Department, Saurashtra University, Rajkot, for their invaluable support in the successful planning and execution of this campaign.

She also extended her heartfelt thanks to her dedicated team at INTACH Rajkot – Manish Parekh, Mitesh Joshi, Vedanshi Dholariya – and the student volunteers from Saurashtra University – Parth Dave, Dhruvil Makvana, Kaushik Joshi, Jagruti Parmar, and Jyoti Singh – for their tireless efforts in bringing this initiative to life. This program would have been incomplete without a complete support of all PM ShRI Schools; Principals, Teachers, and amazing students

The Heritage Education Campaign represents a significant step toward realizing NEP 2020's vision of education that is rooted in Indian values and a global outlook. It reaffirms INTACH's commitment to safeguarding India's cultural legacy through active community engagement.



The first-ever Heritage Education Campaign for Government Schools of Rajkot District- Rajkot Chapter

3. Nurturing Collaborations through Unique Heritage Awareness Activities

The INTACH Rajkot Chapter continues to foster heritage awareness through innovative and engaging initiatives, bringing together institutions, individuals, and heritage enthusiasts. Through carefully curated events, the chapter strengthens its commitment to cultural preservation, ensuring that the younger generation connects with India's rich heritage in meaningful ways.

A mesmerizing 'Folk Musical by Bagga Khanji' set the tone for cultural appreciation, where the renowned artist's soulful renditions captured the essence of oral traditions. His music, deeply rooted in devotion and folklore, resonated with audiences, reinforcing the importance of intangible heritage.

On Gandhi Nirvan Diwas 2025, the event 'Letters of Legacy' brought Mahatma Gandhi's timeless wisdom to life through a reading session of his letters. This reflective exercise provided insight into his thoughts on truth, non-violence, and nation-building, inspiring participants to engage with history through the power of written words.

Marking International Mother Language Day 2025, a 'Heritage Quiz' was organized by Rosary School, an INTACH Institutional Member. The quiz celebrated linguistic diversity and encouraged students to explore the historical and cultural significance of languages, reinforcing the idea that language is a vital part of heritage.

At The Rajkumar College, the 'Celebrating India' event engaged students in a Poster Making and Essay Writing Competition, fostering creativity and critical thinking. Through visual and literary expressions, participants explored India's diverse heritage, reflecting on its past, present, and future.

To celebrate Valentine's Month, INTACH Rajkot introduced 'Hug the Heritage 3.0', inviting heritage enthusiasts to submit photo essays and videos, showcasing their deep-rooted love for heritage sites. This digital initiative provided a platform for individuals to share personal connections with historic places.

Through these diverse and collaborative efforts, INTACH Rajkot Chapter continues to bridge the gap between the past and present, encouraging community-driven participation in safeguarding cultural legacies.



Heritage Awareness Activities - Rajkot Chapter

Vadodara

Prof. Ratan Parimoo

Prof. Ratan Parimoo, Member, Vadodara Chapter received Padma Shree Award 2025 for his pioneering contributions to Indian Art History and aesthetics.

Prof. Ratan Parimoo has been Head of the Department of Art History & Aesthetics for 25 years (1966-1991) at the Maharaja Sayajiro University of Baroda. He was appointed Professor in 1978 and also has also served as Dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts at the same University for 6 years (1975-1981). He began his teaching career in Art History & Aesthetics in 1959. Besides being a leading art historians, (he was awarded the Jawaharlal Nehru Fellowship, 1991-1993), he is also an eminent painter. He was one of the earliest students of the Faculty of Fine Arts, M.S.U., Baroda having passed B.A. in painting in 1955 and M.A. in painting in 1957. Another significant aspect of the personality is that he is equally at home with both contemporary as well as traditional arts of India in his critical writings. As a life led as painter, art historian and art teacher, he has been interested in interdisciplinary study of the arts, which is reflected in the encyclopedic critical anthology edited by him entitled, "Creative Arts in Modern India".

As a recipient of Commonwealth Scholarship, Prof. Parimoo went to London University to study History of European Art at the Courtauld Institute of Art. He received the Rockfeller Grant to travel in the U.S.A., where he studied Indian Sculpture briefly under the great art historian, the late Dr. Stella Kramrisch.



Prof. Ratan Parimoo – Vadodara Chapter

Haryana Ambala

1. National Poster Making Competition - 'Celebrating India':

INTACH Ambala Chapter conducted a mega National Painting Competition on 20 December 24 in the Arya Girls College. Brig D K Khullar, a war veteran and a renowned Everest mountaineer was the chief guest, while Dr Desh Bandhu, and Brig MS Tomar were the guests of honor. The occasion was also graced by Dr Bharti Bandhu, Dr Vijay Sharma, Sister Shaily BK, sister Alka, noted artist Dr HS Purewal, Rotarian Om Banmali, Principal Ritu Ghai, architect and INTACH member Ashok Sharma, over 20 teachers, and Co- Convener Ms Reena.

The contest saw a record response – 123 children from 22 schools. The function started with a sweet gesture – our Co - Convener Ms Reena presenting a bouquet to the chief guest.

The children took keen interest in painting on the theme of 'Celebrating India'. They were required to make a poster, accompanied by a 200 words write-up, on an intangible heritage of our region. The guests went around and keenly watching the children making their posters. One could see them drawing festivities of Teej, karva chauth, ghoomar dance, and many other facets of our traditions, customs, and rituals. The children supported their paintings with a 200 words write-up on the same topic. They were free to write in the language of their choice.

After the painting competition, Mrs Madhu Singh, member INTACH and a senior teacher from the DAV Riverside School, conducted a short on the spot quiz on the famous festivals, traditions, and foods of the region. She made it very interesting and children enjoyed it. A number of children and guests also spoke on 'Celebrating India'. The children took photos with Brig Khullar, the war veteran and Everest hero. There is a lesson on him in the 9th class hindi text books.

Prizes were presented to the teachers in-charge of active heritage clubs. These included Prime Steps International school Shehjadpur, BD School, and GMN School.

Colonel R D Singh, Convener, briefed the audience on various heritage activities conducted by the Ambala Chapter, and thanked his INTACH team. Sister Preeti BK delivered a good talk on 'Power of Positive Thoughts'. A number of other speakers also shared their views. The Chief Guest complimented all the participants and their teachers. He also congratulated the Ambala Chapter for winning the Best Chapter award, consecutively for the last six years.

At the end, the Convener gave a vote of thanks. The children along with their teachers were served refreshments. Every one departed happy and motivated.



National Poster Making Competition - Ambala Chapter

2. Heritage Beacon Award 2024 - INTACH Ambala shines:

It is a matter of great pride and honor that INTACH *Ambala Chapter* is the leading chapter across the country in the Heritage Beacon awards.

The Convener, *Colonel RD* *Singh, has been* awarded the *First* *position* for *Heritage* *Beacon Award*

and our schools *DAV *Riverside, * Army School, and Prime Steps Shehjadpur, have bagged the coveted top positions. INTACH Ambala Chapter has been declared the top chapter among all the 220 chapters in the country.

'We are humbled and grateful as our efforts are recognized' said the committed Convener Col R D Singh. He further reiterated that we will keep working positively towards preservation of our rich culture and heritage. It's the value education for youth which INTACH Ambala is enabling with devotion and dedication since 2001.

3. Filmit Festival at Chandigarh on 30 January 25: Ambala wins 8 prizes, including the Overall Best Film Award:

HECS, INTACH, under the aegis of Ms Purnima Datt, Principal Director, organized a successful Filmit Festival in the St Kabir School, Chandigarh on 30 January 25. It was attended by 8 selected schools from Chandigarh/ Mohali, and four schools from Ambala. The chief guest was Mr Ojaswwee Sharma, a Chandigarh based film maker-, along with Mr VK Kapoor, IPS, Convener Chandigarh, and Colonel R D Singh, Convener, Ambala as guests of honour. Deepika Gandhi, Co - Convener Chandigarh, was also present.

Approximately 50 children (who made films) and 15 teachers were present. Selected films were screened and prizes announced. Ambala won eight prizes, including the Overall Best Film Award by an Army School student Jhoochar Singh for his film ' Pinnis'. This film may also be shown in other schools across the country by HECS to motivate children in valuing our heritage.

Prizes were awarded by the chief guest, and guests of honor, along with Mrs Purnima Datt. The details of prizes won by Ambala are att.

It is heartening to see that Ambala schools' children are enjoying a new creative art - short film making on our heritage values, culture, and environment etc. They are winning laurels at the national level. Filmit is building up our students and helping to preserve our cultural heritage, said INTACH Ambala Convener.



Filmit Festival at Chandigarh - Ambala Chapter

4. visit the Prime Steps International School at Shehjadpur (near Naraingarh) today. One had very good and fruitful interaction with students and the School Heritage Club! Principal Sheetal Ma'am was up and about, full of josh and motivation. She herself is a motivated member of INTACH Ambala.

First of all, as Convener INTACH Ambala, I was requested to inaugurate their newly created 'INTACH Heritage Wall' at the entrance. Very well done up by the school heritage club, and teacher in charge Shivsi Ma'am. They will keep adding to it as heritage events take place. I presented them copy of Young INTACH, and heritage club student passport.

Thereafter, one addressed the students to grow happy and healthy.

I enjoyed interacting with them and motivating them to be good scouts. Also guided the 10th board class students to relax and perform well. They were very responsive and smiling. Also touched upon parental responsibilities.

It was a very fruitful interaction.

5. As Convener INTACH Ambala, one was invited by the Braham Kumaris Centre, Ambala Cantt, to celebrate Shiv Jayanti on 16 February. Some of our other members were also present. It was a good and soothing function, with a large gathering.

We also invite BK sisters to some of our heritage events to motivate members, teachers, and children on the peace of mind. It is a harmonious feeling.



6. On 9 March 25, Archeological Dept of Haryana Govt, had organised a heritage walk in Ambala Cantt. Some of us we INTACH members also joined it.

There were about 20 to 30 participants. We started from the Holy Redeemer Church, after seeing it, we visited the British Cemetery. One also shared our INTACH's contribution towards it's restoration, and awareness among the youth. Thereafter the group visited certain heritage buildings in the Cantt.

It was a paid visit - Rs 300/- per head. We also paid. As Convener, I met everyone and let people know about INTACH.



A Heritage Walk in Ambala Cantt – Ambala Chapter

Faridabad

Faridabad Chapter conducted the On the Spot Heritage Painting Competition along with the Induction of 30 new 1st Year girl students to INTACH Heritage Club at KL Mehta Dayanand College for Women, Faridabad.

200 students participated in the painting competition. 10 best paintings were selected for awards.

30 new members of the Heritage Club were given badges and passports under pledge to protect our Art, Culture and Monuments.

Faridabad Chapter has two colleges and 14 schools where Heritage Clubs are run with activities associated with INTACH.

Faridabad Chapter has recently restored the Rani Ki Chhattri at Ballabgarh after efforts put in over 12 to 14 years. The restored Chhattri was inaugurated by Shri ML Khattar, Former Chief Minister of Haryana. By night it is floodlit and is visible from the national highway.



Heritage Painting Competition – Faridabad Chapter

Gurgaon

CELEBRATING INDIA, the National Poster Competition

The INTACH (Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage) Gurgaon Chapter organized “CELEBRATING INDIA, the National Poster Competition at DPS Gurgaon (Sec 45). This event aimed at engaging students in exploring and promoting lesser-known built and cultural heritage of their region as the theme of the poster was “festival, tradition, custom or ritual of the region”, including Gurgaon and Mewat.

The kick-off ceremony for the Poster Competition commenced with the lighting of lamp by the esteemed Chief Guest, INTACH Team and the Director Principal DPS Gurgaon-45. This was followed by the school choir and band who presented a rendition of different regional language songs from Kashmir to Bengal evoking a sense of pride among the audience, who joined in singing and humming along. Despite the group of students originating from various regions of the country, they presented a united front by getting the accurate pronunciation along with the sweetness and rhythm of each musical note! Dressed in bright Nehru jackets in brocade fabric, the students were a fabulous start to a difficult competition.

The School’s Director Principal, Ms. Aditi Misra addressed the gathering by speaking how important Heritage was for a student’s growth and mentioned various activities conducted by the school towards its propagation. She expressed gratitude to INTACH Gurgaon Chapter for collaborating with the school and providing students with an opportunity to explore and celebrate their heritage.

Ms. Misra then honored the esteemed Chief Guest and the organizers from INTACH team including Ms. Anjali Saran, Mrs. Kiran Rekha Banerji, Ms. Namrata Mishra, Ms. Ruchi Rai and Ms. Tanya Chaturvedi. Convener of INTACH Gurugram Chapter, Ms. Tapasya Samal shared insights into the organization's mission and ongoing initiatives in heritage. Students were intrigued by the definition of heritage, which she explained encompasses more than buildings, our way of living is also to be conserved. She stressed the role of youth in safeguarding our cultural legacy and encouraged students to engage actively in preserving their local heritage.

The Chief Guest, Ms. Shefali Chopra, a motivational speaker, and storyteller delivered an inspiring speech, emphasizing the significance of preserving and promoting India's cultural heritage and preserving stories worth sharing. She spoke about how food, ayurveda, yoga in our country has been re-invigorated only after acceptance and promotion by non-Indians. She also engaged the participants in some stories from her own experience which depict how exposing oneself to heritage creates habits to engage with it at any given time in life.

Ms. Ruchi Rai, Event Team Coordinator Gurugram Chapter in her closing speech, explained the modalities and rules and regulations of the Painting Competition. Ms. Rekha Banerji, Secretary Gurgaon Chapter gave the vote of thanks with special mention of the school team’s effort in planning and management of the entire event. Ms. Samal presented mementoes to the school for hosting the event and the Chief Guest.



The inaugural ceremony conducted beautifully by students of DPS Gurgaon set the stage for an enriching and inspiring journey into the world of heritage exploration and artistic expression. After the opening ceremony, the students commenced the competition, drawing and painting their favorite festivals, rituals and cultural pursuits of communities. All participants outlined conceptual ideas accompanying the poster, wherein they described the history, myths, stories highlighting values of their selected heritage. They had the freedom to choose the language of expression like, Hindi, English, or any regional language. The event ended with a group picture and distribution of refreshments for the students.

The CELEBRATING INDIA National Poster Competition provided a platform for students to delve into the rich cultural heritage of their region, raise awareness about lesser-known cultural aspects including festivals and rituals, and contribute to their preservation and promotion. The Gurgaon Chapter is dedicated to fostering such initiatives and nurturing the next generation of heritage enthusiasts and custodians in tune with the mission and vision of INTACH.



The CELEBRATING INDIA National Poster Competition – Gurgaon Chapter

Rewari

Report on the Project taken up by Rewari Chapter for research into the historical beginnings of Vedic Aryan Civilization in their area

Rewari Chapter has been pursuing the historical background and location of Ashrams in Brahmavarta, located in the forests and hills around Rewari, where during the Vedic times of Vaivasta Manu, 10,000 years ago, the oldest Mandlas of Rigveda and 10 oldest Upnishads are believed to have evolved. These scriptures had laid the foundation of Vedic Aryan Civilization that happens to be the oldest in the world.

To involve the State Government Haryana to facilitate excavations in the area to further unearth evidence, the Rewari Chapter Convener, Sudhir Bhargava, arranged a briefing session with a Power Point presentation on 11th January 2025 for the local MLA, Rao Laxman Singh Yadav, and some special invitees. The invitees after the session assured all help to the Chapter in pursuing this project from the side of the State Government.

It is also of interest that many associations and educational institutions based in Rewari have contacted the Chapter to know more about this important research and spirituality that was established by Rishis in this area.



Project for research into the historical beginnings of Vedic Aryan Civilisation – Rewari Chapter

Himachal Pradesh

Dharamshala

FOUR DAYS' SKILL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP ON THE CAPACITY BUILDING OF HERITAGE AND TOURIST GUIDES – A REPORT

Dharamshala Chapter of INTACH organised a Four Days' Skill Development Workshop for the capacity Building of Heritage and Tourist Guides w.e.f. 5th November, 2024 to 8th November, 2024 in the premises of CII-MCM Trust Multi Skill Training Institute Khaniyara, Dharamshala. In the workshop as many as 32 participants registered themselves for the workshop. The workshop was slotted in 12 sessions and on the last day of the workshop a heritage visit to various monuments and temples of historical and archaeological importance was organised for the participants. The curator of the Kangra Fort also gave a talk on the historical background and archaeological importance of the Fort.

Dr. Rajeev Bhardwaj Hon'ble Member of Parliament from Kangra-Chamba Lok Sabha Constituency of Himachal Pradesh inaugurated the workshop in which Ms. Malvika Pathania the State Convener of Himachal Pradesh and Executive Member of INTACH also remained present in the pre-lunch technical session of the First Day of the Workshop immediately after the inauguration. Dr. Bhardwaj took keen interest in the format of the workshop and the objective of INTACH in organising such a workshop for the skill development of the youth of the area who are willing to take up Heritage and Tourist Guide as an avenue in the direction of their self-employment venture in the near future. The Convener of the Chapter along with about 25 life members, Ms. Manu Dhiman Administrator of the CII-MCM Trust Multi Skill Training institute, Khaniyara, staff members and students of the institute, MCD Councilors and well-known citizens of the town also remained present.

Dr. Narendra Awasthi the Convener of the Chapter highlighted the origin, mission, objectives and the functioning of the INTACH and also apprised the audience about the theme of the workshop and its benefits to the participants. The State Convener Ms. Malvika Pathania informed about the major projects done by the INTACH in this part of the state, in the state as a whole and at the national level as well.

She encouraged all the persons present in the gathering to take a pledge to safeguard their rich heritage. In the presidential address the Chief Guest Dr. Rajeev Bhardwaj also motivated the audience to take care of both tangible and intangible heritage of the area.



He confessed that he was not much aware of the functioning of INTACH through its more than 200 chapters and after getting knowledge about the unbelievable task done by the Chapter and the INTACH, he would also like to contribute towards this noble cause and announced a grant of Rupees Two Lakh for the functioning of Dharamshala Chapter of INTACH. He also showed his interest in taking up of some new initiative by the Chapter in the near future in the direction of the preservation of the rich heritage of the area. At the end of the inaugural session Sh. Sangram Singh Guleria, Co-Convener of the chapter proposed a vote of thanks to the Chief Guest and all others present in the workshop.

After the inauguration an informal session over a cup of tea with the Chief Guest and other dignitaries, the State Convener, members of the Chapter, selected members of the citizen forum, staff members of the hosting institute and the participants had good interaction with each other. Thereafter technical sessions started as per the schedule attached herewith. All the sessions were properly conducted as per the schedule in which the resource persons from different fields having good knowledge about the subject, deliberated on the topics assigned to them and also interacted with the participants to get a feed back. The sessions covered were on preservation of folk art and cultural heritage, various heritage sites in India and Himachal Pradesh, heritage tourism and sustainable community development, historical, art and cultural legacy in Kangra and Heritage Sites in Kangra and Chamba.

VIII session was one of the most important sessions of the workshop in which Er. Hemraj Bairwa, IAS, the worthy Deputy Commissioner of District Kangra, delivered a lecture on the important heritage sites of historical and architectural importance with special reference to Heritage villages of Pragpur and Garli, Bathu Ki Larhi in Pong Dam, Oldest Jain Mandir, Monolithic Temple Masroor, Kangra and Nurpur Forts and other sites of archaeological importance. On the last day, Sh Amit Guleri, District Language Officer, District Kangra at Dharamshala and Member Secretary, Kangra District Cultural Council and Mr. Vinay Dhiman, HAS Divisional Tourism Development Officer, Kangra at Dharamshala were the important resource persons who passed on good information to the participants about the 'Historical Evidences of different forms of Art and Cultural Legacy in District Kangra, viz., Kangra Miniature Paintings, Cultural Heritage of Kangra, Gaddis, Gurkha and Tibetan Communities' and 'The Sites of Tourist and Heritage Importance in Himachal Pradesh with special reference to District Kangra and Chamba', respectively.

Dr. Khushal Sharma, IPS Commandant, 2nd IR Bn. Sakoh, Dharamshala (Former Superintendent of Police, Distt. Kangra) was the Chief Guest in the plenum. During his deliberation he shared his experience of his recent visit to Scandinavian countries where the preservation of heritage and inclusive tourism development is given special attention by the State.

He stressed upon as to How Interest in Cultural Heritage and various Forms of Tourism can be created among Natives and Foreign Tourists? He also pointed out the possibility of creating Cultural Centers and Food Courts to popularize traditional culture and food. Participation Certificates provided by the Department of Tourism, Himachal Pradesh duly signed by the DTDO and the Convener of the Dharamshala Chapter were distributed by the Chief Guest to all the participants.

Last day of the workshop was dedicated for the Heritage Visit. A private bus was hired which started from the venue of the workshop carrying all the participants a few members of the Chapter and concerned resource persons. The participants visited the Kangra Fort, Raja Sansar Chand Museum, Devi temple inside the Fort, one of the oldest Shwetamber Jain Temple under Sh. Prashant Dogra the Junior Engineer of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) Camp Office Kangra Fort. The lunch was prepared at the site of the heritage visit and the participants were provided lunch outside the Kangra Fort.



Mandi

Presiding over the function, Vice Chancellor of Sardar Patel University, Dr. Lalit Kumar Avasthy, said that in rural areas, wild fruits were still found and used by local people. He announced that from next year Sardar Patel University will adopt five villages for conservation and popularization of Wild fruits of the region.

He called upon all organization involved in conservation work to help in saving the existing wild fruits of this region as well as create awareness about the quality of these fruits. Pro Vice Chancellor SPU, Prof Anupama Singh Expressed concern about the wild fruits that were fast becoming extinct and suggested remedial measures. Welcoming the guests and main speaker, Dr Rata Sen thakur, INTACH Mandi Chapter Convener, Naresh Malhotra assured that Mandi Chapter would provide all cooperation in conservation of Wild Fruits of this region.

2. Report on commemoration of 158 years old buildings and Institution in Mandi

Mandi Chapter of INTACH organized a special function to commemorate 158 years old heritage buildings and Institutions in historic Mandi town. Tributes were paid to the most progressive ruler of erstwhile Mandi state Raja Bijai Sen who at the age of 15 years set up a school in 1866, built bridge over river Beas in 1877, a hospital for the people, a post office and link roads to important places. In recognition of his contribution to the welfare of the people, INTACH honoured Raja Bijai Sen with a trophy that was received by his fifth-generation descendent princess Sidheshwar. The function was presided over by Mayor Mandi Municipal Corporation Mr. Virendra Bhatt. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Bhatt announced that Mandi Municipal Corporation will soon hold a meeting of concerned officials and organisations to prepare an action plan for conservation of historic buildings, traditional festivals, are and cultural heritage of Mandi region. INTACH mandi Chapter Convener, Naresh Malhotra Said that Mandi Chapter Is continuing its efforts to revive old art and culture of this area. Mandi Chapter is also focusing on greater participation of public particularly youth in preserving the heritage of mandi region, he added.



Heritage Walk on 'Wild Fruits of Mandi Region' - Mandi Chapter



A special function to commemorate 158 years old heritage buildings and Institutions in historic Mandi town- Mandi Chapter

Jammu & Kashmir

Jammu

1. HERITAGE WALK HIRANAGAR, KATHUA (J&K)

Orientation of Cultural Resource Mapping along with Heritage Walk was organised at GDC Hiranagar District Kathua of Jammu with 35 Students, 10 Faculty members, 5 Resource Persons and a Dozen volunteers and members of INTACH Jammu Chapter as well as of Sub Chapter Kathua participated.

Prof. Pragya Khanna, Principal G.L.D. Degree College Hiranagar, Kathua (J&K) chief guest brief the students about the Heritage Components of Hiranagar Block its architectural features and materials.

The guest faculties of the respective fields such as built heritage, natural heritage and intangible heritage specially the handicrafts and handlooms of the area briefed the students which were shown to them during the heritage walk.



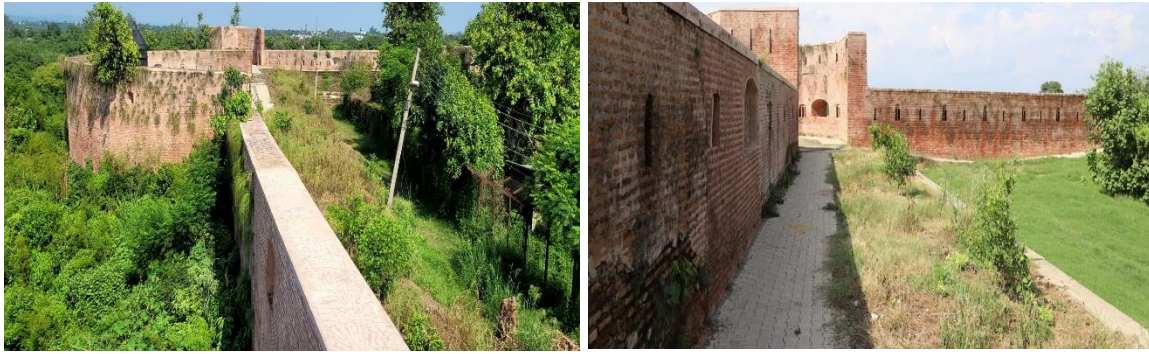
Erstwhile Daak Bunglow– Jammu Chapter

Erstwhile Daak Bunglow more than 110 years old where British officers of undivided India used to stay while on tour passing through this area. Late Prime Minister of India Smt. Indira Gandhi also stayed once at this beautiful Built Heritage.



Jasmergarh Fort located in Hiranagar – Jammu Chapter

Jasmergarh Fort is a historical monument located in Hiranagar, Kathua district, Jammu and Kashmir. With a history spanning over 500 years, it once stood as a symbol of royal grandeur.



Hiranagar Fort memories of Raja Hira Singh – Jammu Chapter

Hiranagar Fort having memories of Raja Hira Singh and Kalimata Temple inside the fort is being visited by lacks of devotees every year.

Hiranagar fort conservation works undertaken by the Deptt. of Culture Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir. INTACH J&K Chapter prepared the conservation & restoration plans which were submitted to the Department of Tourism Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir for initiating the restoration works of the fort.



Sumwan Temple having Unique features and wall paintings is one of the oldest Temple of the area being visited by large number of pilgrims tourist – Jammu Chapter



Heritage Jandi Temple of Lord Shiva with Sarovar is one of the famous place for the devotees having a lot of tourism potential – Jammu Chapter



Heritage walk of Traditional Bamboo Craft Center Sallan – Jammu Chapter

Heritage walk of Traditional Bamboo Craft Center Sallan as intangible heritage of the area. The Department of Handicraft J&K Government is reviving the traditional crafts through the host community.



Basohli Art memento presented to the chief guest – Jammu Chapter

Basohli Art memento presented to the chief guest Prof. Pragya Khanna, Principal G.L.D. Degree College, Hiranagar by the team INTACH Jammu – Kathua.

(The prog. was conducted by Ms. Isha Sharma, Volunteer, INTACH Jammu Chapter. The Post Graduate researcher of the Border Town of Hiranagar-Kathua-Jammu-J&K)

2. HERITAGE WALK AMBARAN-JIAPOTHA CORIDORE, AKHNOOR, JAMMU



Flag off by Chief Guest Mrs. Deepika Sharma JKAS Secretary to Govt. of J&K Department of Culture – Jammu Chapter

INTRODUCTION OF AMBARAN

The Ancient site of Ambaran locally known as "Pambaran" (Lat 30° 54° N and Long. 74° 46' E) is located near Akhnoor about 30 kms north west of Jammu on the right bank of river Chenab (Ancient Asikni or Chandrabhaga). The site is spread in an area of about 500 m in east west direction on the right bank of the river terraces of Chenab in between two rivulets which come down the hill and join the river. The site is about 100 m in width from north south. On either side of the river, there are middle Pleistocene boulder conglomerate deposits over which there are loose boulders and pebbles mixed with sand, silt and clay belonging to the late Pleistocene period, which is the natural soil below the cultural deposits.

The Archaeological Survey of India, Srinagar Circle has carried out scientific excavation for two seasons (1999-2000 and 2000-2001) to know the association and stratigraphic position of the famous Akhnoor terracotta heads in the Buddhist Monastic establishment at Ambaran. In addition, to study the layout and planning of the site believed to be the only early Buddhist site in the Jammu Region. During the excavation, burnt brick structures of various phases encountered.

The site seems to have been abandoned sometimes around the seventh century A. D. mainly due to flash floods in the river and decline of Buddhism in the area. The excavation revealed the cultural sequence of the following periods:

Period 1: Pre-Kushan period (circa second first century B. C.)

Period II: Kushan period (circa first to third century B. C.)

Period III: Post-Kushan (Gupta) period (circa forth fifth century A. D.)

Period IV: Post Gupta period (circa sixth seventh century A. D.)

Period 1: No structural remains of period I were found. The thin deposit contained grey ware shreds of bowls and red ware vases.

Period II: Buddhist monastic establishment was founded at the site in period II. A stupa votive stupas and walls of a monastery were exposed which built of burnt brick masonry with bricks usually measuring 36 to 38 x 24 x 6 to 7 cm

Period III: Two distinct structural phases of period III were noticed the first having structures with bricks measuring 7 x 21 x 28 cm in general and a second phase with bricks and brickbats of earlier structures reused. Remains of an entrance of some important complex, stone pitched pathway were also found. Square base of a votive stupa measuring 2 x 2 sq. mt along with evidence of its circular shaped structure was found.

- Period IV: The large complex, possibly a monastery, partly survived during the period when additions and alterations were made in its original structures and repairs were also carried out after the flash flood.

Pottery of period II to IV does not have much difference in shapes, fabric and slip except that in the last period rims of bowls become sharp and straight. Important shapes are basins, bowls, sprinklers, vases lids, lamps, spouts and storage jars. Stamped designs have also been found. Amongst the spout with grotesque animal head and the pot lugs, an interesting piece bears head of a lion.

Among important antiquities a large number of decorative terracotta figurines, terracotta mounds of human figurines, leaves and ornaments, terracotta skin rubber, beads and gamesmen, iron nails, hooks and rings, copper objects, semiprecious stone beads have found. A small stone sculpture in Gupta style showing a male attendant holding some object in his right raised hand and the left resting on his thigh. Copper coins belong to the Kushan rulers Soter Megas, Kanishka and Huvishka were found during the excavations. The unique discovery of relic caskets during the excavations has opened a new chapter in the study of history and culture of the region as it is for the first time that in the province of Jammu & Kashmir such significant Buddhist remains have been found. The site was abandoned during the seventh Century AD due to flash floods in the area and the decline of Buddhism in the region. While the remains of the platform are there for visitors to see, the superstructure is missing.

The excavations suggest four different periods of human settlements in the area - the pre-Kushana period (second Century BC), the Kushana period, the Gupta period and the post-Kushana period. Many terracotta heads and a gold casket were unearthed here.

The reliquary with three containers copper, silver and gold caskets which could fit into one another was found to be 2.4 cm high with its diameter being 5.6 cm, which comprise 30 circular thin sheets of gold, 2 silver and 130 micro beads of pearl, 12 coral and 2 metallic oval shaped silver caskets, a circular gold casket, a bead of amethyst and 3 encrusted copper coins.

Most significant and distinguished Buddhist bricks structure spoked wheel Stupa has been exposed during the scientific clearance work at Ancient Buddhist site Ambaran, in the year 2008-10 which is discovered for the first time in the Northern part of India Subcontinent of Jammu & Kashmir state. It measuring 4-meter radius Spoked Stupa having 8 spokes inside each measuring 0.80 meter made of re-used bricks of different size and filled with pebbles. Its outer periphery is almost 1.20-meter bricks wall with mud mortar which are partly missing due to latter occupation. Only remains of platform are available and super structure is missing. One the eastern & southern side pebble paved passages are encountered.

The exposed Brick structure is similar to famous excavated Stupa of Nagar Juna Konda in Southern India and Sanghol in Punjab.

Archeological sites are the real embodiment of ancient culture and tradition. These sites remind the future generation about the socio-economic conditions, political system and the cultural phase of the society in which these were constructed. During visit to such sites, it is felt that one is living in an ancient period and one can imagine the real reflection of the past society. These are the index to peep into the past.

There are many archaeological sites and other cultural heritages in Jammu and its adjoining areas, having vast and rich resources for the historians and the scholars to know about the present society, reconstruct the past tradition and help to understand the future. On the basis of the archeological details of Ambaran, it has dated the Jammu region back to the pre-Kushan age and show resemblance with the Kushan art, even the Gandhar art as well as Gupta's art.

Its material culture is an important component to fill the gaps existing in the historical construction as well as enrich the cultural development of the region. As Jammu has already exposed its cultural potential in the form of palaces, forts, pilgrimage sites like Vaishno Devi, Bawe Wali Mata, Shiv Khori etc; but the wealth of Jammu region in the form of numerous archeological sites stretching from Paleolithic period to the late medieval period up to Dogra rule is not fully explored yet.

As a result, major portion of the historical account of Jammu region since ancient time is lacking in detailed explanation of various concepts related to ancient history. Thus, it is important to explore and preserve such archeological wealth of all societies which have remains of ancient civilization. It is not only the duty of concerning institutions to look after them, but the existing populace is equally responsible.



Heritage Walk Jiopota The Coronation Place of Maharja Gulab Singh Ji, Akhnoor, Jammu – Jammu Chapter

3. HERITAGE WALKS ROAYAL DOGRA PALACE COMPLEX MUBARKH MANDI, JAMMU Conducted by Sh. Kirpal Singh Life Member INTACH Jammu Chapter



Heritage Walks Roayal Dogra Palace – Jammu Chapter

4. Endangered Art of Jammu - Rangoli INTRODUCTION

As a part of languishing/endangered Arts of the region Interschool Rangoli making workshop cum competition was hosted by G.D. Goenka Public School, Akhnoor on 30th Nov. 2024 with a vision to preserve and promote nations rich cultural legacy among young mind. The event was graced by Mr. S.M. Sahni JKAS (Retd.) convener INTACH Jammu Chapter as Chief Guest along with Mr. Arvind Kotwal JKAS (Retd.) coordinator Heritage Tourism INTACH Jammu Chapter as the Guest of Honour and Mr. Ashok Kumar Kapur S.E. (Retd) as Special Guest.

The school also very proudly inaugurated its Heritage Clubs with registration of member of the club.

Warm welcome was extended to the esteemed guests with planters & bouquets.

A ceremonial lighting of the lamp marked the auspicious beginning of the event.

Formal welcome address was extended by MsMubeen Bhat vice principal of the school & melodious welcome song prepared by the students.

The school an inter school rangoli making workshop cum competition. Where creativity met culture. Participating students from various schools showcased their artistic skills, bringing vibrant depictions of India's cultural diversity to life & also connecting the young minds to their culture.

Ms. Jiniya & Ms Sarika from D.P.S Akhnoor bagged first position.

Ms. Shreya & Mr. Navediya from G.D. Goenka bagged second position.

Ms. Manya & Ms. Amrita of G.D. Goenka bagged third position.

Valedictory Session

The valedictory session was conducted by Ms Mubeen Bhatt ----- Vice Principal of the school, chief guest, guest of honour and special guest presented certificates to the winners as well as to all the participants followed by address by the chief guest who appreciated the efforts of the students and management of the school in organizing intangible heritage programme for the awareness of the budding students who were also connected with their traditional roots of the region.

Vice Principal of the school presented vote of thanks specially to INTACH Jammu Chapter for giving a platform to the students of the school to enrich their skills & knowledge.

To Sh. S M Sahni (JKAS) Retd. Convener INTACH Jammu Chapter for giving his whole hearted support in organizing the workshop and also to Sh. Arvind Kotwal (JKAS) Retd. Coordinator Heritage Tourism INTACH Jammu Chapter and to Sh. A K Kapoor life member of INTACH Jammu for sparing their valuable time and support in organizing the event.

She also thanked students, management and staff of G.D. Goenka Akhnoor for giving their help and support in organizing the Rangoli Art Workshop as one of the local arts of the area for the enhancement of the knowledge of the students.



Interschool Rangoli Making Workshop Competition – Jammu Chapter

5. Heritage Walk on World Heritage Week

A special heritage walk was organized at the historic Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex in Jammu to celebrate World Heritage Week. The event was arranged for the students of the Heritage Club, Cluster University Jammu, and was also attended by professors. The primary goal of the tour was to familiarize the students with the rich heritage of Mubarak Mandi.

World Heritage Week is celebrated globally to raise awareness about historical monuments and sites. The week emphasizes the importance of preserving and maintaining cultural heritage. During the event, the students were provided with in-depth information about the historical significance of various buildings and structures within the Mubarak Mandi Complex. The architectural style, history, and cultural importance of the ancient buildings in the complex were discussed throughout the walk. The event was led by renowned heritage activist Kripal Singh, who elaborated on the historical aspects of Mubarak Mandi. His insights helped the students understand the significance of this historical heritage. He shared that the Mubarak Mandi complex served as the main palace of the Dogra rulers of Jammu, constructed in the 18th century. The complex contains many ancient buildings that reflect the unique architectural style of the Dogra rulers.

Professors from Cluster University were also present and emphasized the importance of such programs. They highlighted that these events help increase students' awareness of historical sites and foster a sense of responsibility for heritage conservation. The participants captured the beauty of the complex with cameras and expressed their commitment to preserving this historical site. Members of the Mubarak Mandi Jammu Heritage Society also attended the program and played a crucial role in ensuring the event's success.

6. Anil Paba receives J&K Government's highest state award for arts and crafts

Srinagar, January 26, 2025- Anil Paba, a distinguished social activist, writer, and freelance archaeologist, has been conferred with the highest J & K Government Award for 2025 in recognition of his exceptional contributions to arts and crafts on Republic Day. A native of the region, Paba has dedicated 35 years to meticulously preserving the art, culture and heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

His remarkable journey includes discovering numerous ancient sites and historical temples along ancient trade routes, actively working to protect the region's water bodies, and establishing the private Amar Santosh Museum. This unique museum houses a comprehensive collection of artifacts spanning from the Stone Age to the Dogra Rulers, ensuring that future generations can explore and understand the rich cultural legacy of the region.

Paba's tireless efforts in archaeological research and cultural preservations have not only documented the historical significance of Jammu and Kashmir but also created a lasting repository of the area's historical treasures.

Jammu

1. HERITAGE WALK - DRIVE GHARANA WETLAND, INTERNATIONAL BORDER POST SUCHETGARH,
RAGUNATH MANDIR SUCHETGARH

About INTACH

> Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) is a non-profit organization set up in 1984 with the mandate to protect and conserve vast natural, built and cultural heritage of different States of India.

> Today, it is the country's largest non-profit membership organization dedicated to the conservation and preservation of our natural, cultural, living, tangible and intangible heritage.

> INTACH is essentially a volunteer based organization and its enthusiastic volunteers in a network of chapters in cities, towns and villages across the country are largely responsible for the spread of awareness about the vast cultural heritage of the country.

The purpose of the visit

1. The purpose of the Heritage Drive-Walk was to provide students with the real-world experiences that enhance their learning. These types of visit or educational trips can help students develop social skills, learn about different cultures, and improve their academic performance.

2. The visit to Gharana help students to know more about the place and the migratory birds there. It help the students to know about the strength and coordination of the birds. It make us feel that the place is as importance as for the birds and the ecosystem. The birds need that place similarly like we need our home.

3. The development of that place is helpful for the locals economically, but still some of them are not in favour for the birds, we as youngsters need to spread awareness about the importance of Gharana Wetland Conservation Reserve.



FLAG OFF By Prof. (Dr.) Manisha Saurp Kohli Principal of College alongwith Sh. Hemant Sharma IAS (Retd.) & members of INTACH Jammu Chapter Jammu Chapter

2. Visit to Anti-Tank Ditch

The Gharana Wetland, located near the Indo-Pak border in Jammu district. The anti-tank ditch is constructed for defense purposes. This ditch plays a crucial role in maintaining the wetland's water levels. When the Ranbir Canal is operational, the overflow from the security ditch helps keep the Gharana Wetland flooded.

3. Military Bunker Near The Ditch

It is situated near the Indo-Pak border in Jammu district, is influenced by various military infrastructures due to its proximity to the border. One such structure is a security ditch constructed for defense purposes, which also serves as a crucial water source for the wetland. This ditch channels water into the wetland, especially when the Ranbir Canal is operational, thereby maintaining its ecological balance. In addition to the security ditch, the area is dotted with bunkers and other military installations, reflecting the strategic significance of the region. These bunkers are part of the defense infrastructure along the International border and are typically located along ditches.

It's essential to recognize that while these military structures serve defense purposes, they also inadvertently impact the wetland's ecosystem.

4. The Gharana Wetland

Wetland has commenced its reclamation of former grandeur by the Wildlife Department. This rejuvenation is chiefly attributed to the betterment of water quality and a marked proliferation of invertebrates, foreboding a substantial surge in the arrival of migratory avian species in the upcoming winter season. Nestled proximate to the International Border adjacent to Pakistan in R S Pura tehsil, the Gharana Wetland has been steadily diminishing in stature over the years, primarily due to multifarious causes, notably the unbridled inflow of untreated sewage emanating from proximate residencies, exacerbated by the lamentable lack of concerted efforts from pertinent authorities to safeguard its ecological integrity.

Every living entity fulfills a pivotal role in the existence of others, a principle decreed by nature itself. When humans transgress this principle, the consequences over time are nothing short of catastrophic. Among all these, bodies of water hold the utmost importance.

Not only do they replenish groundwater reserves, but they also serve as vital habitats for numerous bird species and aquatic animals, upon which their entire life cycles hinge. One such disregarded aquatic sanctuary is the Gharana Wetland, situated near R.S. Pura.

This heaven for avian species, particularly migratory birds, had been encroached upon, sullied by the discharge of wastewater and sewage from nearby localities. The Gharana Wetland Conservation Reserve, which harbors over 170 species of birds, was perilously close to extinction due to persistent human encroachment. What was once a paradise for both birds and bird enthusiasts has metamorphosed into an almost nonexistent marshland, bereft of essential facilities, lacking proper access roads, and actively discouraged by the local populace. While this detrimental trend persisted over several decades, the authorities entrusted with the care and safeguarding of this wetland appeared to turn a blind eye to the rampant degradation it suffered.

Location

- Gharana, a dying wetland, is located merely 500m from the international border between India and Pakistan, the 200 acres of the Wetland situated in Jammu province (boundaries yet to be demarcated) harbours around 50 species of wintering water birds.
- Gharana Wetland Conservation Reserve near the International Border in Jammu witnesses a significant annual event: the arrival of thousands of migratory birds. This wetland, located approximately 35 kilometers from Jammu, becomes a hub for bird enthusiasts as over 6,000 bar-headed geese and various other species from the northern hemisphere migrate to the region during winter each year. The wetland serves as a winter habitat for these birds, attracting a large number of visitors, including students and photography enthusiasts.
- Despite being designated as a 'Conservation Reserve' a decade ago by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir(J&K) and also declared as an 'Important Bird Area (IBA)' by international organizations, the neglected, dying wetland is still struggling for legal status (The Times of India 2018).



Migratory birds in large number flying at Gharana Wetland – Jammu Chapter

- For the convenience of the visitors, by-pass road has been constructed for Gharana Wetland. Similarly, adequate space has been earmarked for parking of vehicles. “Besides developing the water body, the plan includes developing a large park, bird viewing decks, biogas plant, composting plant, wallowing area, STP, perches, reed plantation area and many more common amenities”, the officer said while giving a detailed outline of the development plan of the ‘Gharana Eco-Spot’.

- It is pertinent to mention here that Gharana Wetland Conservation Reserve is home to more than 170 species of birds like bar-headed geese, gadwalls, common teals, purple swamp hens, Indian moorhens, black-winged stilts, cormorants, egrets and green shanks.
- During the peak season, the water body attracts thousands of migratory birds from Central Asia, Mongolia, Russia, China and other countries across the globe offering a great opportunity for bird lovers.
- When contacted, Chief Wildlife Warden Sarvesh Rai, while confirming expansion of water-body and arrival of more than expected migratory birds this season so far, said, “during the past two-three years several works have been carried out in this direction particularly after the intervention of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir”, adding “now, I am sure that with each passing year Gharana Wetland will keep on regaining lost magnificence step-by-step”.

Meaning of Gharana:

Ghar-ana wetland (meaning welcome home), a home that welcomes birds, is paradise of migratory birds. Gharana and its adjoining wetlands of Makwal, Kukdian, Abdullian and Pargwal every year receive about 10000 to 20000 migratory birds in winter. All these wetlands are located along the border with Pakistan. The Gharana wetland conservation reserve (GWCR) is a semi-arid wetland adjacent to agricultural areas on the Indo-Pakistani border. It is a notified wetland conservation reserve under the Jammu and Kashmir Wildlife Protection Act (1978) and has international recognition as one of the important bird areas (IBAs) in the world, declared by Birdlife International (UK) and the Bombay Natural History Society.

Need and importance of the WETLANDS

- Wetlands are defined as lands transitional between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems where the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water.
- Wetlands constitute vital components of the regional hydrological cycle. They are highly productive, support exceptionally large biological diversity, and provide a wide range of ecosystem services such as food, fiber, waste assimilation, water purification, flood mitigation, erosion control, groundwater recharge, microclimate regulation, enhance the aesthetics of the landscape, and support many significant recreational, social and cultural activities, aside from being a part of our cultural heritage.

Wetlands are considered to have unique ecological features which provide numerous products and services to humanity. Ecosystem goods provided by the wetlands mainly include: water for irrigation; fisheries; non-timber forest products; water supply; and recreation. Major services include: carbon sequestration, flood control, groundwater recharge, nutrient removal, toxics retention and biodiversity maintenance.

Conservation of Gharana Wetland:

A moment of great satisfaction for bird lovers and environmentalists that Gharana Wetland Reserve situated along the International Border in R.S. Pura tehsil of Jammu is on the anvil of gauffing back its original area. Nearly over 415 Kanals of land, the acquisition proceedings of which have reached penultimate stage, originally comprised its major part. This area was now scheduled to be annexed with the wetland. Whether water bodies or wetlands, encroachments and drying up areas were causing their fast shrinking which was quite necessary to be reversed. Things reach such a pass in respect of neglect to preserve such wetland resources that only after filing of a PIL and seeking intervention of courts, restoration and preservation process gets a serious attention from the authorities.

In the instant case, a PIL was filed in the High Court in respect of restoration of the pristine glory of Gharana Wetland Reserve and in December 2017, it issued directions for acquisition of land so that its original area was restored to it. The large chunk of this water body, an abode of unimaginable number of bird species from different parts of the world especially Siberia, was converted into agricultural land, a handiwork of a well-knit design and connivance from the concerned officers who, otherwise, were supposed to protect the Wetland, was now shortly going to be restored to it. Another development is that of preparing of a plan by the Wildlife Department for comprehensive conservation of the Wetland reserve over a period of next few years.



Briefing about wetland by Dr. C.M. Seth IFS (Retd) Environmentalist and Co-Convener INTACH J&K UT- Jammu Chapter

4. INDO-PAK ORDER SUCHETGARH, R.S. PURA, JAMMU (J&K)

The International Border (IB) is the officially recognized as a boundary between India and Pakistan, separating the two nations geographically and politically.

The International border (IB) in R.S. Pura, Jammu, is being looked after by Border Security Force (BSF) Indian side and Pakistan's Rangers in Pakistan side with their strong presence at the border posts. This border has been a site of historical conflicts, including the Indo-Pak wars of 1947, 1965, and 1971.

Apart from security concerns, the border also plays a crucial role in trade, agriculture and tourism. Suchetgarh in R.S. Pura has been developed as border tourism destination of Jammu (J&K) like Wagah Border in Amritsar (Punjab).

Despite its history of conflict, the International Border remains a symbol of resilience, national security and evolving diplomatic relations

Importance of Border Tourism

Turning a border into a tourist destination, serves several purposes beyond just entertainment. While borders are usually associated with conflict and security by promoting it as tourist destination can bring economic, cultural and patriotic benefits.

Some of the highlights for turning international border as a tourist place are:

Patriotism & National Pride

Border tourism allows people to experience the reality of national security and the sacrifices made by soldiers. Events like the flag-lowering ceremony at Wagah or Suchetgarh create a strong sense of nationalism and unity.

Economic Growth for Local Communities

Increased tourism means more business for host community by promoting restaurants, shopping, vendors, transport services. Farming and agro producers get opportunities to sell their products to the tourist.

The government also creates infrastructure such as roads, parking, water, electricity and allied facilities.

> Educational Experience

Tourists, especially students, get a firsthand understanding of international border, security, geography and cultural life style of both the nations.

War memorials, guided tours coupled with interaction with belt force can enhance the knowledge of the students, scholars and the tourists about wars, treaties and border history.



Group photograph of students with Principal and faculty members of GDC Kunjwani at the entrance gate of Zero Line – Jammu Chapter

5. Heritage Raghunath Mandir Suchetgarh

The Raghunath Ji Mandir complex, dedicated to Lord Ram Chandra Ji, Sita Ji, and Lakshman Ji, is located at the entrance of the International Border Check post at Suchetgarh in Jammu. Built in 1837 by Dogra Maharaja Gulab Singh, who belonged to the Suryavansi Rajput lineage with ancestral ties to the Ikhvaku dynasty, the temple honors Lord Ram Ji, the family deity of the Dogra Maharajas. Managed by Jammu and Kashmir Dharamarth, with Dr. Karan Singh Ji as Chairman Trustee, the temple serves as both a religious site and a historical landmark, reflecting the region's rich cultural and religious heritage.

The Garbh Griha of Mandir is beautifully decorated with traditional wall paintings on the walls & on ceiling. The artwork is marvelous which reflects the artistic work of that time which is also the attraction of the salient features of the Mandir parisar.



The Garbh Griha & outer walls of the temple bears the marks of mortars & gunshots fired by Pakistan forces during Indo-Pak wars 1965 & 1971. The enemy attacked our Mandirs and ethnicity but truth always triumphs, "Satyameva Jayate".

Kashmir

Students explore Srinagar's rich past during INTACH-Sahapedia heritage walk

Srinagar: A special heritage walk was organized today in Srinagar city by the INTACH Kashmir Chapter, in collaboration with Sahapedia, bringing alive the theme '*My City, My Heritage*' for students of Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Soura. The initiative aimed to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of Srinagar's historical and cultural legacy among the younger generation.

The heritage walk saw enthusiastic participation from students of 9th and 10th grades, who embarked on an educational journey through two of the city's iconic heritage sites – Pather Masjid and Khanqah-i-Maulla. Guiding them was heritage expert and conservation architect, Taha Mughal, who offered rich insights into the architectural, historical, and cultural significance of these centuries-old monuments.

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Throughout the walk, Mughal engaged the students with fascinating stories and facts about Srinagar's past, helping them connect with their city's vibrant history. The students were introduced to the unique features of Mughal-era architecture at Pather Masjid and the spiritual legacy of Khanqah-i-Maulla, one of Kashmir's oldest and most revered shrines.

"This walk was not just about visiting monuments; it was about experiencing the living heritage of Srinagar," said one of the organizers from INTACH Kashmir. "We believe that educating young minds about their cultural roots helps build a sense of identity and responsibility towards preservation."

The event concluded with expressions of gratitude to all who made the walk a success. The organizers thanked the participating students for their enthusiasm, the school administration and teachers for their support, and Sahapedia for its continued partnership in promoting cultural education in Kashmir. A special acknowledgment was extended to Taha Mughal for delivering an interactive and insightful experience, making the walk both meaningful and memorable.

The heritage walk is part of a larger initiative by INTACH Kashmir and Sahapedia to engage communities, especially students, in exploring and preserving the Valley's rich cultural and architectural heritage.





Sahapedia heritage walk - Kashmir Chapter

Udhampur (Subchapter-Jammu)

Mr. Anil Paba, Co-Convener of Udhampur Sub-Chapter a distinguished social activist, writer, and freelance archaeologist, has been conferred with the highest J&K Government Award for 2025 in recognition of his exceptional contributions to arts and crafts on Republic Day. The award carries a citation and an amount of Rs 51,000/- in Cash.

Jharkhand Hazaribagh

PROJECT REPORT: REVIVAL OF MURAL PAINTING IN JORAKATH VILLAGE, HAZARIBAGH

Submitted by: Gustav Imam, INTACH Convener, Hazaribagh Chapter

Executive Summary:

INTACH Hazaribagh Chapter successfully implemented a project to revive the traditional mural painting in Jorakath village, Hazaribagh, with the generous support of INTACH Head Office. The project aimed to promote the Kurmi style Sohrai mural painting, encouraging local women artists to preserve their cultural heritage. This report highlights the project's objectives, methodology, outcomes, and impact.

Objectives:

1. To revive and promote the traditional Kurmi style Sohrai mural painting in Jorakath village.
2. To encourage local women artists to continue painting their mud houses for Khovar and Sohrai festivals.
3. To preserve the cultural heritage of the region.

Methodology:

1. Identification of suitable locations: INTACH Hazaribagh Chapter identified Jorakath village as the project site, considering its rich cultural heritage and potential for revival.

2. Community engagement: The chapter engaged with local communities, particularly women artists, to raise awareness about the project and its objectives.
3. Artist selection and training: Local women artists were selected and trained in the traditional Kurmi style Sohrai mural painting techniques.
4. Painting execution: Ten houses in the village were painted with traditional Sohrai designs during January-February 2025.

Outcomes:

1. Successful revival of traditional mural painting: The project revived the traditional Kurmi style Sohrai mural painting in Jorakath village.
2. Empowerment of local women artists: The project encouraged and empowered local women artists to continue painting their mud houses for Khovar and Sohrai festivals.
3. Preservation of cultural heritage: The project contributed to the preservation of the region's cultural heritage.

Impact:

1. Community pride and ownership: The project instilled a sense of pride and ownership among the local community, particularly women artists.
2. Cultural revitalization: The project helped revitalize the traditional Sohrai painting, ensuring its continuation for future generations.
3. Tourism potential: The project has the potential to attract tourists, promoting local economic development and cultural exchange.

Conclusion:

INTACH Hazaribagh Chapter is grateful to INTACH Head Office for the grant, which enabled the successful implementation of this project. The project's outcomes and impact demonstrate the importance of preserving cultural heritage and promoting traditional art forms. We hope to continue such initiatives, ensuring the preservation of India's rich cultural diversity.

Acknowledgments:

INTACH Hazaribagh Chapter acknowledges the support and guidance received from INTACH Head Office, local communities, and women artists. We appreciate their enthusiasm and dedication to preserving their cultural heritage.

Recommendations:

1. Continued support for local artists and communities.
2. Expansion of the project to other villages and regions.
3. Development of sustainable tourism initiatives to promote local economic development and cultural exchange.



Revival of Mural Painting in Jorakath Village, Hazaribagh – Hazaribagh Chapter

Karnataka Mangalore

1. The Mangaluru Chapter of the Indian national Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) will observe the World Heritage Week with a series of events from November 19 to November 25 at the Kodialguthu Centre for Arts and Culture.

The week -long programme will commence with a Hari-katha session on 'Vali-Sugreevara Kalaga', presented by Haridasa Shenai Murali on November 19 at 5:30 pm.

Throughout the week, daily talks at 5:30 pm will delve into various aspects of art, culture and heritage. On November 20, Dr. K Chinnappa Gowda, former Vice Chancellor of Karnataka Folklore University, will speak on 'The Role of Indigenous Knowledge in the Making of Oral Epics'. On November 22, Dr Janardhan Roa Havanje, artist and research, will talk on 'Kaavi Art Legacy: Art, Identity and Heritage'. Dr. Narendra Rai Derla, retired professor and environmentalist, will address 'Ondu Bogase Hasiru' on November 23. On November 24, Mamata Rai, Founder of Kadike Trust, will discuss 'Revival of Traditional Weave: Udupi Saree'.

The highlight of the week will be the commemoration of U Srinivas Mallya's birth anniversary with an exhibition on 'The Mallya Residence' presented by the INTACH Mangaluru Chapter. The exhibition will be inaugurated on November 21 and continue till November 24, between 11 am and 7 pm.

2. A Report on World Heritage Week Celebrated at INTACH Mangaluru Chapter from 19th to 25th November, 2024.

On 19th November

INTACH Mangaluru Launches World Heritage Week with Harikatha Performance

The Mangaluru Chapter of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), in association with Kudla Arts, inaugurated World Heritage Week on Tuesday, November 19, at 5:30 p.m. with a captivating Harikatha performance titled 'Vali-Sugreevara Kalaga'. The event, held at the Kodial Guthu Centre for Art and Culture, featured renowned Harikatha artist Haridasa Shenai Murali, accompanied by Sripathi Bhat Belleri on the harmonium and Kaushik Manjanadi on the tabla.



The week-long celebration, observed from November 19 to 25, aims to foster appreciation for India's cultural heritage through various programmes, including talks and exhibitions that highlight the nation's rich artistic and cultural legacy.

During the performance, Haridasa Shenai Murali explained the history of Harikatha, stating, "Though commonly associated with mythological tales of Lord Vishnu, Harikatha also narrates stories of other gods, episodes from the freedom movement, and the lives of great leaders. The underlying aim is to impart moral lessons to the audience." His performance, a vivid rendition of 'Vali-Sugreevara Kalaga', was enriched with storytelling and detailed commentary.

Convener of INTACH Mangaluru, introduced INTACH and the objectives of World Heritage Week, while Akshatha R. Shenoy of Kudla Arts provided an overview of the organization and the evening's performers. The artists were felicitated during the event.



Haridasa Shenai Murali – Mangaluru Chapter Harikatha performance in progress – Mangaluru Chapter

3. "Folklore is precious and must be viewed with special attention," – Dr. K. Chinnappa Gowda

Mangaluru, November 20, 2024

"Folklore is an intangible yet vital part of culture, conveying the experiences and wisdom of common people. It is precious and must be regarded with special attention," said Dr. K. Chinnappa Gowda, former Vice Chancellor of Karnataka Folklore University. Speaking on "The Role of Indigenous Knowledge in the Making of Oral Epics" today during a talk hosted by the Mangaluru Chapter of INTACH, at the Kodial Guthu Centre for Art and Culture as part of World Heritage Week celebrations, Dr. Gowda highlighted the significance of folklore in understanding culture.

Dr. Gowda explained how folklore differs from traditional history, which often documents rulers and notable achievements. Folklore, he said, records the experiences of everyday people and is preserved through oral traditions, making it dynamic and adaptable to changing contexts. “It encompasses folk literature like proverbs and songs, material culture, customs, ceremonies, and performing arts. Many folk epics, such as the Tulu Siri Epic, revolve around themes of justice and rebellion, as in its portrayal of a woman resisting familial oppression,” he noted.

He recounted documenting the oral recitals of Macharu Gopala Naika, a celebrated performer of the Siri Epic, during a project led by Finnish folklorist Lauri Honko. The recordings spanned 25 hours over nine days, amounting to 15,683 lines. “Naika’s performances were unique and tailored to his audience, blending spontaneous improvisation and creativity. Such artists embody extensive local knowledge and artistic genius,” Dr. Gowda observed.

The event commenced with a welcome by Nemiraj Shetty. INTACH Mangaluru Convener gave the vote of thanks. World Heritage Week programmes will continue until November 25. Highlights include a photo exhibition on Ullal Srinivas Mallya’s ancestral residence (November 21–24) and a showcase on Mangaluru’s Kattes (November 25–30) at the Kodial Guthu Centre, open daily from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 pm.



Dr. K. Chinnappa Gowda making his presentation – Mangaluru Chapter

4. Photo Exhibition on “The Mallya Residence” Honours Ullal Srinivas Mallya’s Legacy

Mangaluru, November 21, 2024

The Mangaluru Chapter inaugurated a photo exhibition titled “The Mallya Residence” on Thursday, November 21, 2024, at the Kodial Guthu Centre for Art and Culture. Held on the 122nd birth anniversary of Ullal Srinivas Mallya, a freedom fighter and the legendary first Member of Parliament from Dakshina Kannada, the exhibition is part of INTACH’s World Heritage Week celebrations.

The exhibition features a detailed documentation of Mallya’s ancestral home in lower Car Street, where he spent his childhood, along with rare biographical photographs and architectural diagrams. Curated by the INTACH Mangaluru Chapter, the display provides insights into Mallya’s life. The exhibition will remain open to the public until Sunday, November 24, from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

Following a welcome address by INTACH Mangaluru Convener Subhas Chandra Basu, team member Sharvani Bhat detailed the meticulous documentation process. Prof. P. Krishnamoorthy of Govinda Dasa College highlighted Mallya's pivotal role in shaping modern Mangaluru through initiatives like the airport, New Mangalore Port, national highways and the National Institute of Technology. "Mallya's legacy is honored by no fewer than four statues across the city, signifying his enduring impact," he said.

Kasturi Balakrishna Pai shared a poignant personal memory as a pallbearer at Mallya's funeral. He recalled his interactions with Mallya and the deep sense of loss that prevailed in the city after Mallya's untimely passing. Similarly, filmmaker and musician Madhusudhan Kumar recounted how, during his college days, he often saw Mallya passing by in his car and shared his father's admiration for Mallya's vision and dedication.

A book titled "Srinivas Mallya's Residence", documenting the heritage site, was unveiled jointly by Mallya's grandson Narahari Mallya (the current occupant of the residence) and Prof. Krishnamoorthy. Narahari Mallya expressed his family's gratitude to INTACH for preserving their ancestral legacy.

Closing the event, Subhas Chandra Basu said, "They say a house makes the character of its residents. But in Mallya's case, he was never attached to the house. His true attachment lay with the community he served so devotedly, and he rejected all the comforts of the house."

This exhibition is a heartfelt tribute to Ullal Srinivas Mallya, celebrating his contributions and preserving his memory for future generations.



Documenter Ar.Sharvani Bhat explaining exhibits to present resident of the house – Mangaluru Chapter



Report on Mallya's residence presented to Sri Narahari Mallya and his wife Arundhuthi – Mangaluru Chapter

5. Kaavi Kale: **Preserving the Legacy of a Timeless Coastal Art Form**

Mangaluru, November 22, 2024

The Mangaluru Chapter of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) hosted a talk on "Kaavi Art Legacy: Art, Identity, and Heritage" as part of its World Heritage Week celebrations. The event, held on Friday, November 22, at Kodial Guthu Centre for Art and Culture, was the fourth programme in the week-long series.

Dr. Janardhan Rao Havanje, an artist and renowned researcher in Kaavi Kale, delivered an engaging presentation on the historical evolution of this indigenous and versatile art form. Using natural materials such as lime, red mud and sand, Kaavi Kale integrates various artistic styles, making it uniquely adaptive. Dr. Havanje's presentation featured vivid photographs showcasing Kaavi art across temples, churches and private homes along the Konkan coast.

"Kaavi Kale is a method-based art without rigid forms, allowing for diverse artistic influences," he explained. Drawing from his extensive PhD research, he highlighted the urgent need for preservation, lamenting the loss of many Kaavi artworks to modern developmental activities. "A Geographical Indication tag is being sought for Kaavi Kale, but this art belongs to the entire coast. Collective effort is essential to preserve and recognize its significance," he emphasized.

Subhas Chandra Basu, Convener of INTACH Mangalore Chapter, welcomed the audience and introduced the speaker, while INTACH member Caroline D'Souza proposed the vote of thanks. Dr. Havanje was felicitated at the event.

The World Heritage Week celebrations continue until November 25, 2024. A photo exhibition on Ullal Srinivas Mallya's ancestral residence is open daily at the Kodial Guthu Centre until November 24, from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.



*Dr Janardhan Havanje presenting – Mangaluru Chapter
thanks- – Mangaluru Chapter*



*Ar Caroline D'Souza proposing
thanks- – Mangaluru Chapter*

6. Celebrating Nature and Heritage with Dr. Narendra Rai Derla's Inspiring Talk Mangaluru, November 23, 2024

The Mangaluru Chapter of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) hosted a thought-provoking talk by Dr. Narendra Rai Derla, a retired professor and environmentalist, on "Ondu Bogase Hasiru" (A Fistful of Green) on Saturday, November 23, at the Kodial Guthu Centre for Art and Culture. This was the fifth program in the ongoing World Heritage Week celebrations.

Dr. Derla began his talk with a beautiful poem reminiscing the importance humans give to nature in comparison to precious stones. He highlighted the adverse effects of modernization on the environment, emphasizing how development has often come at the expense of natural resources. "Human civilizations originated near riverbanks. Today, we are neglecting rivers and pumping water from thousands of feet below ground, taking its availability for granted. Water has been replaced by other priorities like transport connectivity and mobile networks," he observed.

The talk explored the harmonious relationship that once existed between humans and nature, where communities respected and depended on natural resources for their livelihoods. Drawing from anecdotes rooted in the coastal region, Dr. Derla concluded with an optimistic call for a future where nature and progress can coexist.

Subhas Chandra Basu, Convener of INTACH Mangaluru Chapter, welcomed the gathering. Sharvani Bhat introduced the speaker, while Rajendra Kedige delivered the vote of thanks. Dr. Narendra Rai Derla was felicitated for his contributions.

The World Heritage Week celebrations will conclude on November 25 with a photo exhibition on Mangaluru's Kattes. The exhibition will be open to the public at the Kodial Guthu Centre from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. until November 30, 2024.



Narendra Rai Derla presenting his talk. A group photo with INTACH members and some participants – Mangaluru Chapter

7. Preserving Heritage: Udupi Saree Revival Takes Centre Stage Mangaluru, November 24, 2024

The Mangaluru Chapter of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) hosted an enlightening talk on the “Revival of Traditional Weave: Udupi Saree” on Sunday, November 24, 2024, at the Kodial Guthu Centre for Art and Culture. This session was the sixth program in the ongoing World Heritage Week celebrations.

The keynote speaker, Mamatha Rai, founder of Kadike Trust, shared her inspiring journey of reviving the Udupi Saree. Kadike Trust works closely with weavers in Udupi and Dakshina Kannada districts to preserve and rejuvenate this heritage craft.

In her talk, Mamatha Rai recounted her transition from being a science professor to becoming a passionate advocate for the Udupi Saree. “When I started, there were only 40-45 weavers remaining, most of whom had abandoned the craft decades ago. The younger generation saw no future in weaving,” she recalled.

She elaborated on the trust’s holistic approach to revival, which includes extensive research, confidence-building within weaving communities, training programs, branding and awareness campaigns. These efforts have led to a remarkable transformation: the weaving tradition now enjoys a growing market, recognition through a Geographical Indication (GI) tag and an assured steady income for the weavers. Younger generations are increasingly embracing the craft. “Today, Udupi Sarees are steadily regaining their rightful place in our cultural fabric,” she said.

Subhas Chandra Basu, Convener of INTACH Mangaluru Chapter, welcomed the gathering. Sharvani Bhat introduced the speaker. Mamatha Rai was felicitated for her contributions to heritage preservation.

The World Heritage Week celebrations will conclude with a photo exhibition on "Kattes in Mangaluru." The exhibition will be open to the public at the Kodial Guthu Centre daily from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. from November 25 to 30, 2024.



Smt. Mamata Rai in presentation – Mangaluru Chapter

8. INTACH Mangaluru World Heritage Week Concludes with Inauguration of Exhibition on 'Kattes of Mangaluru' **Mangaluru, November 25, 2024**

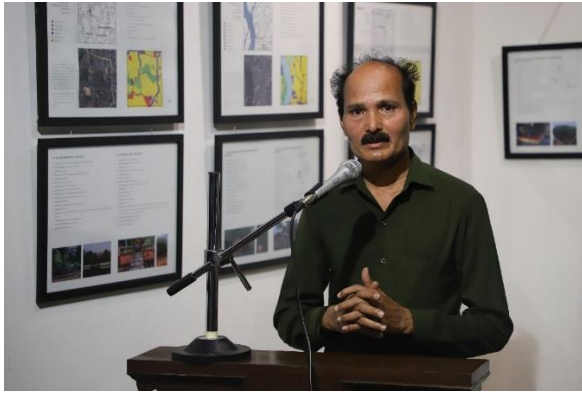
The Mangaluru Chapter of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) concluded its World Heritage Week celebrations with the inauguration of an exhibition titled 'Kattes of **Mangaluru**'. The event, held on Monday, November 25, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at the Kodial Guthu Centre for Art and Culture, showcased the unique cultural and environmental significance of kattes – sacred tree platforms that double as local landmarks and community hubs in the coastal region.

The exhibition is the result of a comprehensive two-year documentation project led by INTACH Mangaluru Chapter Convener, Subhas Chandra Basu, with support from architects and architecture students. The project documented approximately 200 kattes across old Mangaluru, offering a glimpse into their historic and evolving roles.

Presenting the findings, Subhas Chandra Basu highlighted the importance of kattes as spaces for socializing, trade and leisure, which have increasingly transitioned to sites of religious significance. "While religious association aids in conserving the trees and spaces for a longer duration, it also limits the traditional activities and open access once associated with kattes," he explained. He emphasized the need to expand such documentation efforts to encompass more of Mangaluru and beyond.

The chief guest, renowned environmentalist Madhav Ullal, lauded INTACH for its initiative. Known for planting and nurturing over 20,000 trees in Dakshina Kannada, Ullal addressed the audience on the challenges of urbanization and deforestation in Mangaluru. "The green cover that once defined this city is rapidly vanishing due to unchecked urbanization. People today lack both awareness and fear of the law, with fines for tree cutting being as low as Rs. 200. Stricter enforcement and policies are essential to curb deforestation," he asserted.

A printed project report detailing the documentation efforts was unveiled. The exhibition will remain open to the public at Kodial Guthu Centre from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. daily, until Saturday, November 30.



Environmentalism Ulla Madhava Nayak sharing his impressions – Mangaluru Chapter



Participants exploring exhibits – Mangaluru Chapter

9. INTACH Mangaluru Hosts Workshop on Charkha Spinning for Primary School Students

Mangaluru / January 21, 2025

The Mangaluru Chapter of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), in association with INTACH Heritage Education and Communication Services, New Delhi, and the Dakshina Kannada Zilla Panchayat Government Higher Primary School, Gandhinagar, organized a one-day workshop on charkha spinning titled 'Charakadondige Ondu Dina' ('A Day with Charkha'). The programme, held on Monday, January 21, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the school premises, aimed to revive and promote the age-old practice of spinning as a sustainable textile production method.

The workshop was conducted by Sachidananda KJ and Soumya, a couple dedicated to advocating for charkha and weaving cultures. Subhas Chandra Basu, Convener of INTACH Mangaluru Chapter, and Manoj Kumar, President of the School Development Committee presided over the programme. A total of 35 students from classes 7 and 8 participated in the programme, coordinated by members of the INTACH Mangaluru Chapter.

Sachidananda began the workshop with an engaging introduction to charkha spinning, emphasizing its significance as both a traditional craft and a practice that fosters focus and self-reliance. "Spinning yarn is a delicate process that requires complete concentration. It not only allows us to create our own clothing but also enhances our ability to stay attentive and mindful," he explained. He further highlighted charkha's ecological and cultural relevance as a sustainable textile practice.

Students were divided into batches and practiced spinning on 10 portable charkhas brought by the resource persons. The facilitators guided the students through the intricate process. During the session, Sachidananda demonstrated the creation of a 500-meter yarn, explaining its transformation into textiles.

The programme commenced with a welcome address by the school headmistress, Sharmila D'Souza. School teacher Rajeshwari introduced the resource persons and provided an overview of the workshop. The event concluded with appreciation for the students' active participation and a felicitation ceremony for the resource persons and guests.



A one-day workshop on charkha spinning titled 'Charakadondige Ondu Dina' ('A Day with Charkha') – Mangaluru Chapter

10. INTACH hosts dialogue on basic education with experimental educationist

The Mangaluru Chapter of the Indian National Trust for Arts and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) and Art Kanara Trust observed International Day of education with a dialogue on basic education with experimental educationist Krishna in Mangaluru recently.

An architect by training, Mr. Krishna is the co-founder of Thulir School, an experimental institution to locate in the remote village of Sittilingi in Tamil Nadu's Dharampuri district. Established in 2003 as an after school learning center, Thulir initially catered to tribal, Dalit, and Lambadi children and adults. In 2017, it evolved into a formal primary school serving the Adivasi children of the region.

During the session, Mr. Krishna shared his journey, explaining how a visit to the Sittilingi valley exposed him to educational challenge faced by the local Adivasi families. Although a government school had been set up there, it lacked basic facilities and failed to meet the community's needs.

Responding to a request from the villagers, Mr. Krishna and his wife, Anuradha, established Thulir on an acre of land with two thatched huts. The center provided village children the freedom to explore subjects of interest after school hours and helped them develop basic technical skills. It also hosted theme-based camps.

Mr. Krishna said, "From my experience, early education is crucial to a child's development. Unfortunately, teaching is a low paying profession in our country and fails to attract the best talent." "In countries like Finland, teaching is a highly valued and respected profession. Teacher-training programmes are as rigorous as those for doctors. We need a similar approach to education in our country," he stressed.

Subhas Chandra Basu, Convener, INTACH, Mangaluru Chapter, and others were present.

Kerala Calicut

1. Padmashri KK Muhammed, Member, INTACH Calicut Chapter received Sri Satya Saibaba Human Excellence award 2024 in the category of Religious Unity. The award carries a citation and an amount of Rs 5 lakhs in Cash.

Madhya Pradesh Mandla

1. INTACH's Visit to Historical and Archaeological Sites

Mandla INTACH team visited the Vishwa Jyotish Kendra, historical, archaeological site Taragarh. INTACH, an organization working for the conservation of archaeological and historical sites, started its tour programs at 9 am with the worship of natural heritage Maa Reva. The tour team reached among the public representatives, villagers and children at the Gond period historical stepwell Jhiriya-Subhariya, where INTACH Chapter Mandla Convener Arun Agarwal discussed about the site and inspired them to keep the site clean and protected. For this, children were also given prizes. Thereafter, on reaching the historical, archaeological site Taragarh, the team visited Taragarh with Hon. Dev Singh Saiyaam, former State Minister, Madhya Pradesh Government, Bhopal. INTACH additional district Co-Convener Sanjay Singaur and INTACH members Rajesh Kshatriya, Om Prakash Chokse discussed and shared information with the people present on the subject related to the ancient and history of the site and made them aware of the archaeological importance of the site. Co-Convener Vijay Agarwal and senior member Narendra Yadav requested the former minister on behalf of INTACH for the conservation of Taragarh and awareness about the archaeological site.

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

2. INTACH visited historical, archaeological Taragarh and other sites*

INTACH Mandla Chapter visited the Vishwa Jyotish Kendra, an important historical and archaeological site in Taragarh. As part of its ongoing efforts to conserve cultural and archaeological heritage, the team commenced its tour at 9 AM with a worship ceremony dedicated to Maa Reva, symbolizing the reverence for natural heritage.

The team then engaged with local representatives, villagers and children at the Gond-period stepwell Jhiria-Subharia, where Chapter Coordinator Arun Agarwal emphasized the importance of site preservation and inspired the community to keep the area clean and protected. To encourage awareness, prizes were distributed to children.

Upon reaching Taragarh, the team, accompanied by Hon. Dev Singh Saiyam, former State Minister of Madhya Pradesh explored the site. Additional District Co-Convener Sanjay Singaur and INTACH members Rajesh Kshatriya and Om Prakash Chokse shared insights into the site's historical and archaeological significance, educating the attendees about its rich past.

On behalf of INTACH, Co-Convener Vijay Agarwal and Senior Member Narendra Yadav formally requested the former minister's support in the conservation and promotion of Taragarh as an important archaeological site. Several INTACH members, including Anil Tiwari, Pratima Bajpai, Sanjulata Singaur, T.D. Asathi, and Rashmi Pathak, actively participated in the visit.

3. INTACH CHAPTER MANDLA ON WOMAN'S DAY, VEERANGNA RANI DURGAWATI'S ARPIT KI SHRADHANJALI

On the occasion of Women's Day, the INTACH Chapter Mandla team participated in the Nari Shakti Shourya Samman Sammelan at Samadhi Sthal (Narrai Nala), Pipariya Khurd, Jabalpur, the final resting place of Veerangana Rani Durgavati. The team paid heartfelt tributes to the revered queen, honoring her courage and sacrifice.

During the visit, the team also met with the Chairman of the Samadhi Sthal Committee, the Village Sarpanch, and other committee members, expressing their respect and support for preserving the site.



Mandla Chapter visited historical, archaeological Taragarh – Mandla Chapter

4. Awareness created the National Fossil Park

In 1998, an article in Navbharat magazine reported a remarkable phenomenon near Shahpura—a forest that had supposedly turned to stone due to the wrath of a goddess. This news came as a surprise to us 25 years ago. At the time, Mandla and Dindori were part of the same district, and Anurag Jain served as the District Coordinator of Paryavaran Vahini.

Upon learning about this, we informed Collector Anurag Jain, who promptly formed a team from the Forest Department to investigate the site. The team included DFO of Social Forestry B. Munimma, IFS Ranger Sudhir Kasar Bhai, Sanjay Srivastava, and myself. Upon reaching the site, we were astonished to discover that a forest covering approximately two and a half acres had indeed turned to stone. This fascinating finding intrigued us all.

After thorough documentation, we submitted a detailed report to Collector Anurag Jain. Further research confirmed that the site was, in fact, a fossilized forest. Recognizing its significance, the Collector immediately reported the discovery to the government. Under his tenure, the location was designated as Fossil Park, and over time, it gained national recognition, eventually being renamed National Fossil Park. Today, it stands as one of the country's most treasured fossil heritage sites.

With the continued support of the state government and the special efforts of Cabinet Minister Hon'ble Mrs. Sampatiya Uike, the site has recently received approval for expansion and beautification. This development is a source of immense pride for all of us.



Awareness Programme at National Fossil Park – Mandla Chapter

Shivpuri

REPORT ON OLD PANCHAYAT BHAVAN'S BHUMI PUJAN- A STEP FORWARD FOR RESTORATION OF A HISTORICAL BUILDING

A historic event took place with Bhumi Pujan ceremony for the restoration and conservation of the old Panchayat Bhavan in village Thakurpura of Shivpuri town. The project aims to preserve the historical and cultural significance of the building while adapting it for modern use.

The old Panchayat Bhavan holds historical and cultural importance to the local community. It served as a center for community gatherings, decision making and social events for generations.

The building is in a state of disrepair and neglected due to lack of maintenance and changing administrative needs with the passage of time.

The team of architects from Aagaur Studio, Bhopal visited Thakurpura for the site visit and assessment of old Panchayat Bhavan. Architects made a plan to be followed in the process of restoration and conservation of the building in the following way:

1.context analysis.

2. Local history enquiry.
3. Material palette examination.
4. Architectural feature and structural element identification.
5. Damage assessment.
6. Proposed solutions(non-negotiable): tree removal, terrace waterproofing, wall reconstruction.
7. Future plans: maintenance, community involvement, preservation initiatives.

Non-negotiable measures for restoration of Panchayat Bhavan aimed at safeguarding the structure from further deterioration. The Aagaur group in collaboration with Shivpuri youth forum met the local government body with the presentation on request for restoration of the building. Their efforts led to the government approval and funding for the building's restoration and conservation.

A thorough structural and historical assessment of the building was conducted to identify areas requiring restoration and conservation. A comprehensive restoration plan was developed considering the building's historical integrity and the needs of the community and adapting the building to modern needs while refraining its historical character.

For implementation of plan necessary approvals and permissions were taken, securing funding through the Nagarpalika and monitoring the restoration process to ensure quality and adherence to conservation principles will be done.

A Bhumi Pujan ceremony was held to mark the commencement of the restoration project. It signifies seeking blessings from the divine for a successful and auspicious undertaking. Prayers and blessings were offered for the project and the well being of all involved.

The conservation and restoration of the old Panchayat Bhavan is a significant undertaking that will preserve a valuable piece of local heritage, by revitalizing the old structures, we can strengthen the social fabric of rural communities and ensure their continued contribution to local development and cultural heritage. The bhumi puja ceremony marked the beginning of this important project and symbolizes the community's commitment to preserving its history and culture. It signifies a collective effort to preserve the past while building a brighter future for the community.



Old Panchayat Bhavan's Bhumi Pujan – Shivpuri Chapter

Maharashtra Chandrapur

1. CHANDRAPUR (08/12/2024) : 'WALK, WONDER AND WANDER', a Heritage Walk was held for the students and teachers under the aegis of INTACH (Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage) Chandrapur Chapter on December 08, 2024.

With the help of Mrs Sonali Arya Principal of Vidyashri Convent Ballarpur as many as 26 students and 22 teachers of the school participated in the Heritage Walk. Convener Shri Pravin Nikhare and Co-Convener Shri Vijaykumar Dhande took the participant students and teachers to the Apurna Dewalaya premise at Babupeth where Shri Nikhare and Shri Dhande conveyed the history of the Apurna Dewalaya. Later they were taken to the Anchaleshwar Temple where the students and teachers took delight in observing the beautifully carved idols depicting scenes of Mahabharata and Ramayana. Shri Nikhare and Shri Dhande added to their knowledge with the mythological stories woven around the Gond King Khandkya Balladshah and construction of the Anchaleshwar Temple. After visiting Anchaleshwar Temple they were taken to the Graveyard of Gond Dynasty. Shri Dhande detailed the history of Gond Dynasty that ruled over Chandrapur for more than 500 years. During the questionnaire session, the students queried about the material used for binding of stones during ancient times. Shri Dhande and Shri Nikhare showed the place of preparing curing and also explained the process and ingredients of curing. The students also asked about the Logo of INTACH on which Shri Nikhare informed about the anthropomorphic copper figure found at Shahabad, Uttar Pradesh belonging to the 18th to 17th Century BC was and adopted by INTACH as its brand image (Logo).

The event concluded after the distribution of snacks and refreshment. Convener Shri Pravin Nikhare and Co-Convener Shri Vijaykumar Dhande took efforts for the successful organisation of the event. Ms Subha teacher and other teachers and students were present on the occasion.



Heritage Walk – Chandrapur Chapter

2. CHANDRAPUR (Jan 27, 2025):

On account of the 42nd Foundation Day of INTACH (Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage), school students were taken out for a Heritage Walk at Mahakali Temple conducted by Chandrapur Chapter on December January 27, 2025.

As many as 23 students participated in the event. After reaching the Mahakali Temple premise, Shri Pravin Nikhare, Convener, Chandrapur Chapter explained the objectives of the Heritage Walk and showing the paintings on the inside walls of the temple, he acquainted them with the art and culture of Gond Dynasty.

Co-Convener Shri Vijaykumar Dhande detailed them with the history of Mahakali Temple and appealed to come forward for the protection of our heritage.



A Heritage Walk at Mahakali Temple – Chandrapur Chapter

3. CHANDRAPUR (Jan 31, 2025): A 'Terracotta Pottery Training Workshop' was held for the school students under the auspices of INTACH Chandrapur Chapter at Gramoday Sangh, Bhadrawati on January 31, 2025.

As many as 39 school students participated in the workshop. The workshop aimed at introducing the students with the art and handicrafts and culture of ancient times and to develop their interest in it.

At the outset, Shri Gadekar, Lecturer, Gramoday Sangh showed every sector of the entire pottery institute including Clay Formation, Procession, and Furnace and also detailed the process of pottery. He also explained the process of heating the pots in the furnace. In the earlier period there were Brick Furnaces that have been replaced now with the modern furnaces running on electricity and LPG, he said. In this way Shri Ramesh Gadekar explained the transformation of old time techniques to modern techniques. Later a Questionnaire Session was held in which students asked several queries regarding traditional pottery and Shri Gadekar satisfied their queries by providing proper explanation.

After lunch break Gramoday Sangh Teacher Shri Suryakant Raut showed the demonstration of making pots on Pottery Wheel and then the students applied their skills practically by making clay pots on the pottery wheel.

Shri Pravin Nikhare, Convener, Chandrapur Chapter proposed a vote of thanks and then the workshop concluded. Co-Convener Shri Vijaykumar Dhande, Shri N P Chavhan and Ku Rupali Mungal were prominently present on the occasion.



Nagpur

1. INTACH Nagpur Chapter Hosts General Body Meeting to Celebrate Achievements and Plan Future Initiatives

Nagpur, January 11, 2025: The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) Nagpur Chapter successfully conducted its General Body Meeting on January 11, 2025. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation, with more than 30 attendees comprising INTACH Nagpur Chapter members, heritage club teacher in-charges from schools and colleges, and students who have brought laurels to the chapter through their remarkable contributions at national-level programs.

The primary agenda of the meeting was to recognize and honour the efforts of teacher in-charges and students who represented INTACH Nagpur Chapter at prestigious forums. The felicitation ceremony highlighted their dedication toward promoting heritage awareness and preserving the city's rich cultural legacy.

The meeting also served as a platform to discuss ongoing projects, including heritage conservation initiatives, documentation of historic landmarks, and awareness campaigns conducted in collaboration with local communities. Members engaged in brainstorming sessions to generate innovative ideas for future project proposals. Key suggestions revolved around the preservation of lesser-known heritage sites, digital documentation of the city's history, and organizing city-wide heritage walks to engage the youth in cultural conservation efforts. The Master of ceremony was Mrs. Vandana Shaw and the program was attended by many renowned personalities of the town from different fraternity like Dr. Tejinder Singh Rawal(CA), Mr. Ashok Singh Thakur (Governing Council Member INTACH New Delhi), Mr. Sanjay Mishra (Numismatic Society of India), Mrs. Ratna Singh(Lawyer, High court, Nagpur), Dr. Avishkar Rathod (Metallurgist, Deptt. of Metallurgical and Materials engineering, VNIT), Ar. Sandeep, Ar. Shivani, Ar. Amol from conservation, and many others.

Dr. Madhura Rathod, Convener of the INTACH Nagpur Chapter, expressed appreciation for the efforts of all participants and emphasized the importance of collaborative work in protecting Nagpur's heritage. "It is heartening to see the enthusiasm of students and educators alike in contributing to the conservation of our city's heritage. Together, we can create meaningful and sustainable projects that ensure the preservation of Nagpur's legacy for future generations," she said.

The event concluded with a collective resolve to implement the discussed ideas and further strengthen the chapter's initiatives.



General Body Meeting to Celebrate Achievements and Plan Future Initiatives - Nagpur Chapter

2. INTACH NAGPUR CHAPTER'S REPORT OF DRAWING COMPETITION WINTER - 2024

The INTACH Nagpur Chapter, in collaboration with Women 's Education Society Smt. Manorama Bai Mundle College of Architecture (SMMCA), successfully hosted the Winter Drawing Competition - 2024 on Sunday, December 15th, 2024. The event took place in the central courtyard of SMMCA, LAD College Campus, Seminary Hills, Nagpur.

This year, the competition embraced the theme 'Celebrating India', encouraging young minds to express their love and appreciation for the country through artistic creativity.

The competition witnessed an overwhelming response, with more than 700 students participating across various categories. The participants enthusiastically showcased their artistic talent, illustrating diverse aspects of India's cultural heritage, traditions, and national pride.

The event was graced by the presence of Mr. Manoj Jain, Co-Convener, INTACH Nagpur Chapter, as the Chief Guest. The program was conducted under the expert guidance of Dr. Madhura Rathod, Governing Council Member, INTACH New Delhi, Convener of INTACH Nagpur Chapter, and Associate Professor at SMMCA, Nagpur.

The competition concluded with a felicitation ceremony, where outstanding artworks were recognized and rewarded. The efforts of the organizing team, faculty members, and volunteers were instrumental in making the event a grand success. The Winter Drawing Competition - 2024 served as an enriching platform for young artists to display their talent and engage in cultural expression, reinforcing the spirit of creativity and national pride.

The INTACH Nagpur Chapter and SMMCA extend their heartfelt gratitude to all participants, faculty members, and guests for their enthusiastic involvement and support, making this event a memorable and inspiring experience for all.



The Winter Drawing Competition - 2024 - Nagpur Chapter

3. With the aim of providing a hands-on learning experience and enabling students to learn through direct observation, a field trip to Koradi Mata Mandir and the Ramayana Cultural Centre was organized by Essence International School under the banner of the INTACH Heritage Club, INTACH Nagpur Chapter.

The trip was conducted under the guidance of INTACH Club Coordinators Vandana Shaw and Anamika Sahu, along with Office Assistant Yogesh Mali.

The primary objective of the field trip was to instill religious values and enhance students' awareness of India's rich cultural heritage. This goal was successfully achieved with the support and guidance of School Directors Mr. Vijay Menon and Dr. (Mrs.) Hema Menon, School Principal Mrs. Beena Menon, and Quality Coordinator Mrs. Jayshri Shastri.



Field trip to Koradi Mata Mandir and the Ramayana Cultural Centre - Nagpur Chapter

4. INTACH Nagpur Chapter's Heritage Awareness Campaign

The INTACH Nagpur Chapter conducted a heritage awareness program at the Datta Meghe Group of Institutions as part of the 'INTACH Volunteers' Campaign. The event aimed to educate students about the significance of heritage conservation and encourage active participation in preserving cultural assets.

More than 500 Undergraduate students from diverse academic backgrounds attended, reflecting a strong interest in heritage preservation.

The session focused on the role of youth in heritage conservation, the importance of local heritage, and ways to engage with INTACH's initiatives.

Dr. Madhura Rathod provided insights into heritage classification and conservation policies.

Mr. Bhujang Bobade highlighted the importance of community-driven efforts in safeguarding cultural landmarks.

Mr. Manoj Jain discussed INTACH's initiatives and the responsibilities of student volunteers.

Interactive discussions and Q&A sessions allowed students to share their perspectives on heritage conservation.

The program successfully instilled awareness and enthusiasm among students regarding their role as heritage volunteers. The event marked a significant step in strengthening youth engagement with INTACH's conservation initiatives.



Heritage Awareness Program - Nagpur Chapter

Pune

INTACH Heritage Quiz

INTACH Pune Chapter conducted the Heritage Quiz for school students - Pune city round and Maharashtra state round on 27th November 2024. The Quiz is a pan India quiz competition initiated by HECS (Heritage Education Communication Services) division of INTACH.

128 students from 7 schools participated. The team from Global Indian International School was the winner of the city round and qualified for the State final. The State round was conducted among 6 winning teams from 6 different city rounds - Nashik, Nagpur, Wai, Chandrapur, Solapur and Pune. The State winning team was from Bhavan's Bhagwandas Purohit Vidya Mandir, Nagpur. MKSSS Dr. Bhanuben Nanavati College of Architecture was venue partner for the event. A welcome note and brief introduction regarding heritage and the objective of the quiz was given by Ar Jui Tawade (Co-Convener, INTACH Pune). Madhur Barve, Executive Committee member conducted the final city round. The State round was conducted by Executive Committee member Ar Mahesh Bangad. The questions were also asked in Marathi wherever necessary. Co-Convener, Jui Tawade was the score keeper for both the final rounds. The questions were designed by INTACH EC members. The rounds were innovative covering various themes of heritage and presented in a fun and entertaining manner. One of the rounds had questions about 'senses' blindfolding the participants and guessing the food items or food grains or fragrance by using corresponding senses. The quiz masters also interacted with the audience with additional interesting information regarding the ongoing topic in the quiz and a few audiences round questions. Snacks and lunch were provided to all participants and accompanying parents and teachers at the venue. A team of INTACH members and college student volunteers were available for any queries and help needed by the students and accompanying parents and teachers.

Discover Pune edition 21

Discover Pune's 21st edition was conducted by INTACH Pune. It is an adventure heritage treasure hunt. This race not only brings in sheer excitement, but also brings the participants closer to the city's glorious past. This year's edition covered 10 lesser known heritage sites in Pune. Designed and led by EC member Madhur Barve, the theme revolved around the theme of elections. More than 44 teams of 3-4 members each participated. The event received Sponsorship from Amanora Township and Girivan Picnics.

Heritage walks and awareness sessions

A number of heritage tours were conducted for corporate guests and family guests by Co-Conveners Supriya Goturkar and Jui Tawade and members Dr. Shruti Joshi, Manish Kelkar. The tours included including visit to the Pataleshwar caves, Omkareshwar temple, Raja Dinkar Kelkar Museum and the core city. A heritage tour of the prestigious Bharat Gayan Samaj for renowned singer Pt Dr Mohan Deshpande was curated and conducted by INTACH Pune Co-Convener Supriya Goturkar. A Core City Heritage Walk conducted by our Co Convener Jui Tawade as a part of an exercise for a 'Illustrated Maps' course for students of MIT Institute of Design.

As part of the monthly heritage walk series, the November Walk was through the Somwar Peth area of Pune – a blend of history, architecture and social and cultural life, conducted by EC member Prof Dr Chetan Sahasrabudhe. The December heritage walk was based on the theme – Riverside Pune that was conducted by Executive Committee member Ar Sourabh Marathe. In January 2025, INTACH member Jayesh Paranjape conducted the Pune Cantonment Food Walk. Dr Pushkar Sohoni, historian and INTACH Life member conducted the walk through the Cantonment precinct around the Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Market in February 2025.

A 'River-side Pune' heritage walk was designed and conducted by Co-Convener Supriya Goturkar and EC member Shubhada Kamalapurkar for architecture students of REVA University, Bangalore, as part of a Five-Day Joint Workshop 'Urban Weave' with MKSSS BNCA.

Co-convener Jui Tawade was invited to conduct a session on Weaves of India by the Cultural and Heritage group, Spectrum Ahead. She also conducted a Freedom Trail on the theme of events and personalities around the national freedom movement for students of Sahyadri school in December 2024.

Co-Convener Supriya Goturkar was invited to conduct a workshop on Pune history and heritage for the members of Athashri Cultural Club, Pune.

INTACH Pune's publication Pune Queen of the Deccan was on display and sale at the Pune Book Festival in December 2024.

Workshops & talks

Sacred Groves Conservation Workshop

A workshop on Sacred Groves: intersection of Biodiversity, Culture & Conservation was organized by INTACH Pune jointly with PES Modern College; Vanarai Trust; Biospheres and Maharashtra Vruksh Samvardhini. The workshop was well attended by NGO representatives, media representatives and researchers. As part of the ongoing Sacred Groves project, led by EC member Dr Mukul Mahabaleshwarkar, a booklet on Sacred Groves and their cultural and natural heritage was compiled and published in English and Marathi language. Marathi copies were distributed as complimentary among different stakeholders. Both the versions are made available online that can be downloaded for free.

Cultural Landscapes sessions

INTACH Pune conducted field work and classroom sessions on 'Cultural Landscapes' for INTACH's institutional member VIT's PVP College of Architecture's Masters and Fourth Year students as part of their elective studio in January 2025.

Geo heritage workshop

A half day workshop on geo-heritage was conducted on 4 Jan 2025 by INTACH Pune jointly with Vanarai Trust and MVS. Experts Prof Sanjeev Nalavade and Dr Ajit Vartak conducted the sessions. The workshop was designed as teachers' training programme of school eco-clubs. Educational kits of 10 stone samples were distributed complimentary to participating schools. The kits were supported by Kohinoor tiles, Pune.

Talk on Iconic trees of India

A talk on Our Living Monuments - Iconic trees of India by Dr S Natesh jointly organised by Intach Pune Chapter, Maharashtra Vruksh Samvardhini (MVS), Vanarai Trust and PES Modern College Ganeshkhind on 12 March 2025. It was well-attended by well-known botanists, ecologists and nature enthusiasts from Pune. The event was coordinated by EC member Mukul Mahabaleshwarkar.

Odisha

Bhadrak

1. Heritage walk for survey of Buddhist place, other monuments and cultural places of Jaipur District

A team consisting 45 members of INTACH, Bhadrak Chapter proceeded on Heritage walk on 06.01.2025 under the leadership convener Digambar Mohanty and Addl. Co-convener Pravakar Mallick Co-ordinated by Ajit Kumar Das, Ajit Kumar Nayak and Muktikanta Mohapatra to Survey the Buddhist Place at Solampur, Bhandaripokhari in the district of Bhadrak as well as a large Shiva Idol under construction at Baruni Ghat near by Nrusingha temple. The team proceeded to Jajpur District to survey the heritage monuments such as Dashashwa Medha Ghat, Sapta Chandi Mandir, Navi Gaya, Maa Biraja Temple, Large Kusumi Pond & its surrounding Park and Barunei Shiva Temple at Arei. The team observed that it needs further improvement of the Temple Places, Ghats, Park of Kusumi Pond by the Jajpur District Administration and Municipality of Jajpur. The Baruneswar Shiva is submerged in water more than 10 months and worshipped over water, which needs for drainage of water from the temple to worship the God in visible condition throughout the year.

The Buddhist Idols and materials excavated on digging of earth at some places of Solaripur and collected from Baitarani River when water level is less during summer. The Ancient primitive materials are kept scattered near a temple at Solampur. The District Administration of Bhadrak and Govt. of Odisha have been moved by our Chapter for construction of Buildings to keep them in a large Museum and provision of Guest house with Canteen facility for visitors in a suitable large place at Solampur and a wide concrete road with parking place for vehicles of visitors as early as possible. The Director General, Archeological Survey of India has been requested for further excavation to locate the ancient materials nearby Solampur and to declare Solampur as Tourist Place

At the end the team surveyed a picnic spot in Eucalyptus Forest near Nalang in Bhadrak District where more than 100 picnic parties assembled and enjoyed there. Our team marked that there is no toilets, water supply facility, Pucca Benches for sitting a concrete road and parking place for vehicles and electrical supply. The District Administration Bhadrak, Forest Department of Bhadrak and local Sarpanch have been requested to take step for making a best picnic spot with required facilities for enjoyment of parties there.

2. 15th Annual Function 2025 of INTACH, Bhadrak Chapter has been celebrated on 23.02.2025 (Sunday) at Nityananda Bhaban of Bhadrak District Retired Govt. Employees' Association, Kuansh presided over by convener Digamabar Mohanty where co-convener S.M. Farooque and Addl. Co-Convener Pravakar Mallick were on the dais. Amiya Bhusan Tripathy, I.P.S. (Retd.) Odisha State Convener INTACH, former D.G.Police, Sanjib Chandra Hota, I.A.S. (Retd.), Odisha State Adviser INTACH, former Chief Election Commissioner of Odisha and Prof. Dr. Rama Chandra Behera former President of Odisha Sahitya Academy graced the function as Inaugurator, Chief Guest and Chief Speaker respectively. Convener narrated the performance activities and activities to be undertaken in future by this chapter. Inaugurator spoke about the heritage project of Gandhi Odisha Balashrama, Bhadrak to memories Gandhijee during his stay there, other heritage of Odisha, Sun Temple, Konark as world heritage and Idols excavated at Solampur, Bhandaripokhari, Bhadrak, Odisha.

Three alive seniors most Freedom Fighters namely Braja Kishore Rout, Ramahari Goswami and Gourishyam Goswami have been felicitated by the guests during the function. In order to promote the dormant Folk song and Musical instruments (Odisha Lokakala) artist Kulamani Nath & his Guru have been felicitated by the guests and they played Dhuduki & Khanjani badan singing Bhajana. This chapter always emphasizes on dormant tangible and intangible heritages of this district and near by districts. About 150 people were on visitor's gallery including members, invited people, printing and electronic media persons in the function.

3. Felicitations to a Meritorious girl - An outstanding student Shweta Shree Mohapatra, MTech. NIT pass out Engineer having bright career and good conduct secured Top position (Rank I) in Odisha Civil Service (OAS) Examination for 2022 has been felicitated by INTACH, Bhadrak Chapter in a special meeting held at 'Nityananda Bhaban' of Bhadrak District Retired Govt. Employees' conference Hall on 11.12.2024.



Felicitation to a Meritorious Girl – Bhadrak Chapter

4. Discovery of Budha Idols at Solampur

A local person Raj Kishore rout while walking at river side of Baitarani found Some Red Stone (Khandolite) idols near river bank. He informed our chapter member Biswambar rout and they collected the Bouddha Stupa of 3ft, one buddha idol of 1ft in prayer mood and one Buddha idol of 1ft in sitting mood. Those have been preserved at Solampur where other buddha idols, earthen pots are assembled. The newly discovered idols probably of 9th and 10 centuries.

Cuttack

"Heritage Eateries of Cuttack"

Twenty of Cuttack city's iconic eateries were honoured with heritage plaques by the Indian National Trust for Art & Cultural Heritage (INTACH) Cuttack Chapter. The ceremony was held on the 5th of March at the Cuttack Tax Bar Association Centre. This recognition by the Cuttack Chapter of INTACH follows a comprehensive survey conducted by Suman Prakash Swain, a life member of INTACH, who documented 45 historic eateries that play a significant role in the city's rich culinary history. From the list, twenty establishments were selected to receive the prestigious 'Heritage Eateries of Cuttack' award, a plaque with a certificate, 'aang vastra' and bouquet.

During the ceremony, Amiya Bhushan Tripathy, the State Convener of INTACH, presented the plaques and commended the owners for their dedication to preserving the authenticity of these popular eateries. He urged them to continue upholding the heritage and dignity of their establishments. Gopal Krishna Behera, the Convener, Cuttack Chapter, emphasized that this initiative is crucial for safeguarding the food culture of Cuttack, ensuring that the city's rich culinary history is passed down to future generations. Dr Dipak Samantarai Co-Convener conducted the ceremony. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by Life Member Prashanta Kumar Rout.



Heritage eateries awardees with INTACH members – Cuttack Chapter

Jajpur

1. Report of Symposium on the topic contribution of Maharaja Jajati in Building of Modern Odisha in Jajpur Zilla Mohatsab 2025.

A symposium was held on 10th Feb 2025 on the topic “Contribution of Maharaja Jajati in Building of Modern Odisha” by INTACH Jajpur Chapter Jajpur in collaboration with Department of Culture, in Jajpur Zilla Mohatsab which was held from 8th Feb to 12th Feb 2025 in Premises of Goutam Budha Sanskruti Bhawan. On the occasion Mr. Akshya Kumar Mallick, ADM Jajpur presided over the meeting . Dr Dusmanta Kumar Nayak, Dr. Harihar panda, the eminent Historian, Dr. Soumya Ranjan Sahoo, Prof. in History Sujanpur College, gave their valuable speech on the topic. The District Cultural officer Mrs, Sonali Behra was also present the meeting. INTACH members like Prof. balram Mohanty, Dr. Akshya Kumar panda, Rasmi Ranjan Mohanty, Akshya Kumar Parida and all others were present Convener of the Chapter Prof. Anil Kumar Mohanty gave his opinion regarding the measures taken by INTACH Jajpur Chapter for opening of new Museum.

2. Report on observation of World Heritage Week from 19th to 25th Nov 2024.

The World Heritage Week was observed by INTACH, Jajpur Chapter Jajpur from 19 to 25 Nov, 2024. On emphasizing search of various Cultural Sites of Jajpur City and its near by villages. As per the verbal request of Collector, Jajpur certain members, the Convener, Co-Convener & Ex Convener of the Chapter visited different places like Sindurahimuhan, Baruadi, Sibadashpur, Barahatta, Bamdevpur etc. From these sites different statues, Temple, Siba Lingas & other monuments were found. The list has given to the collector to preserve it in newly constructed museum at Jajpur on the bank of River Baitarai. The Collector’s representative Mr. Pradosh Kumar Das has given importance to do it as soon as possible. The week ended with work successfully.

3. On the occasion of the State Level Book Fair (Pustak Mahotsav) at Jajpur Town, Jajpur from 23rd Dec to 30 Dec 2024, the INTACH , Jajpur Chapter has organized an awareness programme on the “Cultural Heirtage of Jajpur on 24th Dec 2024.

The open quiz contest was continued from 24 to 30 Dec 2024 everyday from 4:30 to 6:00 pm. The programme was conducted by the members of INTACH Chapter. The students of different school & colleges were also taking part in the contest. The participants were awarded tatkal prizes everyday and winners were awarded through cash prizes on the last day of the fair i.e 30 Dec 2024 with certificates.



State Level Book Fair (Pustak Mahotsav) at Jajpur Town -Jajpur Chapter



A Symposium on the topic contribution of Maharaja Jajati in Building of Modern Odisha in Jajpur Zilla Mohatsab 2025 – Jajpur Chapter

Punjab

Amritsar

1. Report on the Visit to 5,000-Year-Old Ruins at Harsha Chhina Village, Amritsar District Introduction

As part of the activities for **World Heritage Week**, a field trip was organized by **INTACH Amritsar** to the ancient ruins at **Harsha Chhina village**, Amritsar district. This site, believed to be over **5,000 years old**, offered a unique learning opportunity for students to connect with their historical and cultural roots.

Objective of the Visit

The primary aim of the visit was to create awareness among students about their rich heritage and instill a mindset of archaeological exploration. It was intended to inspire pride in Punjab's cultural legacy and encourage the younger generation to take an active role in its preservation.

Activities and Insights

Historical Overview: The tour was guided by **Surinder Kochhar**, a renowned historian, who shared extensive insights into the site's historical and cultural significance. He explained the findings at the site, including terracotta objects, clay artifacts, and the remnants of temples and their towering minarets. These findings provide evidence of a flourishing civilization that once existed in this region.

Trekking and Observation: Students trekked through the mounds, known as **Thehas**, to get a closer view of the ruins. This hands-on experience allowed them to grasp the enormity and intricacy of the structures, evoking a sense of wonder and curiosity about the lives of their ancestors.

Student Participation: Students from **DAV International School, Howard Lane School,** and **Riarki School** actively participated by sharing their thoughts on the importance of heritage preservation. They emphasized the need for administrative action to protect the site from theft and degradation. They also proposed the establishment of a museum to house the artifacts found during excavations.

Visit to Gharats: The tour included a visit to the **gharats (water-based mechanisms to grind wheat into flour)**, which were installed in 1911 by the British. These structures, now in poor condition, highlighted the technological ingenuity of the past and the need for their conservation.

Outcomes and Feedback

Student Awareness: The visit significantly enhanced the students' understanding of heritage conservation. Many expressed their determination to raise awareness about preserving historical sites in their communities.

Recommendations:

The **Archaeological Survey of India** was urged to conduct further research on the site. Greater involvement of schools, colleges, and universities in excavation projects was recommended.

A museum to safeguard and display the artifacts was proposed as a priority.

Recognition

The visit concluded with an award ceremony for the winners of an essay competition commemorating the **244th birth anniversary of Maharaja Ranjit Singh Ji**. Students such as **Ekanthika, Aradhya Mehra, Shristi Sharma, Sanvi, Anurit Kaur,** and **Gurpreet Kaur** were recognized with trophies and valuable heritage books for their exemplary work.

Conclusion:

The visit to Harsha Chhina's ancient ruins was an enlightening experience for all participants. It highlighted the importance of preserving and researching our historical assets. This initiative by **INTACH Amritsar** was a significant step in fostering heritage awareness among students and encouraging their active involvement in the conservation of Punjab's rich cultural history.



Visit to 5,000-Year-Old Ruins at Harsha Chhina Village, Amritsar District – Amritsar Chapter Faridkot

Faridkot Chapter organized Poster Making Competition Celebrating India (Essay / Painting) 2024 -25. For this activity, we contacted and invited 12 reputed schools of the region. The following schools were invited to participate in the Painting / Essay Competition viz.: 90 students from these school - Dasmesh Public School, SSBP Khalsa Sen. Sec. School, Faridkot; DAV Public School, DCM International Public School, Ashoka Model Sen. Sec. School, British International School from Kotkapura; Dasmesh Mission Sen. Sec. School, Hari Nau. It is worthwhile to mention that many of these schools are regular participants in Chapter activities previously.

All participating children and guests were served refreshment or felicitation. All participating children will be awarded with participation certificates and other prizes provided by HECS Division. The activity got an ample place in Media- Newspapers. Er. Raj Kr Aggarwal, Co-convener INTACH Members: Life Members Er Maninder Singh Dhillon, Mrs. Jaspreet Kaur Brar, Shivinder Singh Kochhar, Sh. Ashok Chawla, Sh. Pawan Mittal, Ordinary Members Principal Rakesh Ashoka, Sh. Baljit Singh, Er. Ankush Ashoka, Sh. Shaminder Singh Dhillon and all principals or many teachers from these schools devoted their precious time to make this competition a success. Cheers to all and INTACH HECS / Central Office for this valuable idea.



Poster Making Competition Celebrating India (Essay / Painting) 2024 -25- Faridkot Chapter

Patiala

(Celebrating India Poster Making Competition 2025)

An All India Competition of Poster Making and Writing titled 'Celebrating India' for students of 7th to 9th classes was successfully organized by INTACH Patiala Chapter on 18th January, 2025 at the Common Hall of The Aurobindo International School Patiala. The event was conducted on initiation of Heritage Education and Communication Service of INTACH. Total 41 participants of 5 schools namely The British Co-ed High School, Senior Secondary Model School Punjabi University Patiala, Government Co-ed Multipurpose Senior Secondary Smart School Patiala, Government Senior Secondary Smart School Tripuri Patiala and The Aurobindo International School Patiala participated in the competition. The participants made posters on intangible cultural heritage e.g. Local Festivals like Lohri, Rakhri, Holla Mohalla, Basant Panchmi etc and on Punjabi traditions, customs and rituals. The participants also presented the history, way of celebrating and importance of the festivals alongwith the steps of awareness regarding the same in their write-ups.

The Director of the Aurobindo International School Sh. Jatinder Paul inaugurated the event with his message in a brief speech, to preserve and protect our valuable treasure of intangible heritage for the coming generations.

He also stressed upon the need to educate the people to conserve the national resources and to avoid from their excess use. The Convener of the Patiala Chapter sensitized the students from the rich heritage of Punjab and India and exhorted them to come forward to preserve and protect the same. Principal Smt. Neerja Sethi thanked the Patiala chapter and its team members for organizing the competition at their school. Sh. Jatinder Singh Sarao on behalf of the Patiala Chapter also thanked the school administration and the participants. The program was concluded with the refreshment to all participants and teachers accompanied them.



India Poster Making Competition 2025- Patiala Chapter

Rajasthan

Alwar

1. INTACH Alwar Chapter hosted a vibrant 'Rang Parampara' program on the occasion of Holi to preserve and promote folk culture, traditions, and customs.

Traditional Phagun songs, accompanied by the rhythmic beats of the Dholak and Chang, were performed in accordance with age-old customs. The event aimed to prevent the fading of folk traditions and ensure their transmission to future generations.

The initiative received appreciation from the participating women, who applauded the efforts to keep cultural traditions alive. They also encouraged collective celebrations of traditional festivals to foster a sense of community. The festivities included folk music and dance, with around 100 women and children actively participating. The event concluded with the exchange of Holi greetings using chemical-free flowers, reinforcing the commitment to an eco-friendly celebration.

2. "Colorful India" - Poster and Writing Competition

On 22nd January, 2025, the INTACH, Alwar Chapter organized a Poster and Writing Competition focused on local intangible cultural heritage, folk art, social traditions, and rituals. The event aimed to promote heritage education among students.

A total of 90 students from classes 7 to 9, representing 10 schools across Alwar city, enthusiastically participated. Through vibrant colors and creative expressions, they beautifully depicted their cultural heritage on paper.

The competition featured stunning representations of Jagannath Mela, Teej Ki Sawari, Kalbeliya Dance, Bhrithari Rural Environment, and various folk dances, with accompanying written descriptions providing insightful information about the traditions showcased in the posters.

The jury awarded the first prize to Divyaom Bhardwaj (Class 8, Alwar Public School), while Tanvi Patwal (Class 8, Chinar Public School) and Vasudev Dwivedi (Class 9) secured the second and third prizes, respectively. Additionally, one outstanding participant from each school was recognized.

The event was graced by Mr. Amit Chhabda, the Chief Guest, and Mr. Amit Goyal, a subject expert in heritage and archaeology. They shared valuable insights on heritage conservation, engaged students in thought-provoking discussions, and encouraged the young participants.

Sunita Mittal, the INTACH Alwar Chapter Convener provided detailed information about the Rangarang Bharat program, while INTACH members Aasha Kalra and Pushpa Kundnani arranged refreshments for all. The event concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks, leaving participants inspired and enriched with a deeper appreciation for their cultural heritage.



"Colorful India" – Poster and Writing Competition – Alwar Chapter

Baran

Baran Chapter - Environmental Conservation Workshop

Baran, 5th January, 2025 – As part of its ongoing environmental conservation campaign, INTACH Baran Chapter organized a workshop to address the impending deforestation of 119,759 trees in the Shahabad Protected Forest Sanctuary. The workshop, held at Gayatri Pragya Peeth Seminar Hall, featured renowned environmentalists Dr. Rajendra Singh (Magsaysay Award winner) and Robin Singh (national environmental activist) as the chief guest and keynote speaker. The seminar, held at 6:30 PM, was attended by special guests, including Brijesh Vijayvargiya (Coordinator, Chambal Parliament), Vitthal Sannadya (Convener, People for Animals, Bundi), and environmentalist Prashant Patni.

Dr. Rajendra Singh emphasized that "Environmental purity and availability are fundamental rights of citizens. The planned deforestation for Greenko Energy's hydro power project in Shahpura village must be stopped." Robin Singh echoed similar concerns, stating that "Oxygen is essential for life, and forests play a crucial role in maintaining its supply. If the Shahabad forest is destroyed, we will launch a major movement to prevent it."

Chapter Chairman Vishnu Kumar Sabu stressed that "The Shahabad forest is a national heritage and must be preserved." Other speakers, including Brijesh Vijayvargiya and Vitthal Sannadya, vowed to raise awareness and mobilize support to protect the forest.

The event was moderated by INTACH Baran Chapter Convener Jitendra Kumar Sharma and Dr. Mukesh Kumar Meena.

2. Field Visit Report – Shahabad Forest Conservation

Baran, 6th January, 2025 – On 6th January at 6 AM, Dr. Rajendra Singh and national environmentalist Mr. Robin Singh, along with their team and INTACH members, reached the proposed location of the hydro power plant in Shahbad forest with a convoy of three cars. Upon reaching the forest site, the team met with the villagers and gathered them in the temple courtyard of the village colony, where they encouraged them to take a pledge not to sell their land at a low price. They also collected information regarding the pressure being exerted by the officials of the hydro power plant. The group then proceeded to the Kuno River bank, where they observed ongoing construction activities in the forest, despite a High Court stay order. Using a tape measure, the team assessed the number of trees planted in a 10x10 foot area and found it to be higher than the figure reported by the government. The villagers present were urged to assist in the preservation of the forest. After spending about three hours investigating the forest from various angles, the team concluded that these forests must be protected from deforestation.

Barmer

Shri Yashovardhan Shandilya, Ex-Convener of Barmer Chapter has been awarded by District Collector for organizing the mela at State and National level at event of Republic Day 2025.

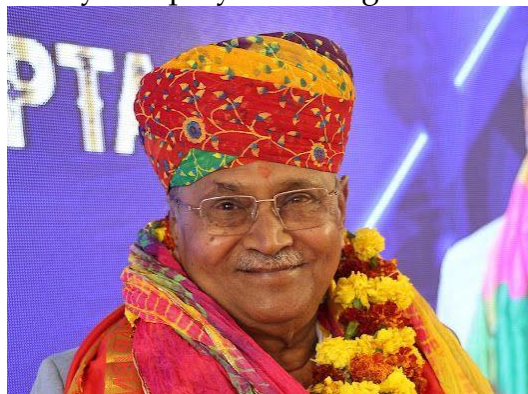
Bikaner

1. Obituary

Shri Arun Prakash Gupta, a distinguished intellectual and dedicated social worker from Bikaner, held a prestigious position in the erstwhile S.B.B.J. Bank and served as the State President of the Bank Employees Association for many years. Even after his retirement, he remained deeply committed to social service through the Rotary Club Bikaner. His remarkable contributions to eye care transformed countless lives. Through the Acharya Shri Nanesh Rotary Eye Hospital, Bikaner, he facilitated free eye treatment for thousands. A dedicated Rotary medical team traveled to villages, conducted preliminary examinations, and transported patients for surgeries at the hospital. Under the expertise of skilled doctors, many underprivileged individuals underwent successful cataract surgeries with lens implants.

Additionally, Shri Arun Prakash Gupta made free dialysis services available at the Sundar Devi Champalal Rotary Dialysis Center, a cause he had embraced as his personal mission.

As the Convener of INTACH, he played a pivotal role in various heritage conservation programs, including heritage walks, the Camel Festival, border inspections, and the establishment of Mohini Devi Asharam Chura Pustakalaya. His enduring efforts in preserving culture and history were invaluable. For over a decade, the Rotary Club Bikaner has been awarding three to four annual literary prizes, amounting to approximately ₹1 lakh each, in recognition of outstanding contributions to Rajasthani language and literature – an initiative strongly supported by Shri Arun Prakash Gupta. His sudden passing on 7th February, 2025, is a profound loss to the entire INTACH family and the community at large. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family and pray for strength and solace during this difficult time.



Shri Arun Prakash Gupta – Bikaner Chapter

2. Participation in the International Camel Festival –

The INTACH Bikaner Chapter actively participated in the International Camel Festival (January 10–12, 2025), organized by the Rajasthan Tourism Department. Alongside domestic and international tourists, INTACH members took part in a heritage walk under the leadership of Chapter Convener Prithviraj Ratanu.

He informed the tourists about the fine carvings of the red stone mansion of Bikaner and their grandeur. Chapter member Dr. Ritesh Vyas played an important role in preparing hoardings of information about the mansions and temples installed by the Municipal Corporation Bikaner. This heritage walk started from the famous Shri Laxmi Nath temple of Bikaner and passed through the main market and concluded at the world famous Rampuriya Haveli Bhanwar Niwas. About 1000 people participated in this entire journey.



The International Camel Festival – Bikaner Chapter

Bundi

1. On 15 February, senior litterateur Mukut Maniraj of Kota was given the Bhasha Gaurav Samman in the Sahityakaar Sammelan ceremony organized at Raghunath Academy under the aegis of Indian Cultural Fund INTACH Chapter Bundi. This honor was given to him for the highest Bhasha Award 2024 received by the Central Sahitya Academy for his work 'Gaon Aur Amma'. INTACH Convener Rajkumar Dadhich felicitated Mukut Maniraj by draping a shawl on him and presented a memento.

On this occasion, Mrs. Rekha Sharma, Devki Darpan, Ramswaroop Mundada, Dinesh Vijayvargiya, Jai Singh Ashavat, Deshbandhu Dadhich and Rajendra Pawar were also awarded 'Bhasha Gaurav Samman' for the best creation in the literature of Hindi and Hadoti. Addressing the program, INTACH Convener Dadhich gave details of the activities carried out by the organization. Also, he highlighted the achievements of the litterateurs to be honored. In the first session of the program, the compositions of Piyush Pachak also mesmerized the audience. On this occasion, INTACH members Piyush Pachak, co-convener Rajendra Bhardwaj, Rituraj Sharma, Manish Singh Sisodia, Nand Prakash Sharma Nand ji, Satish Joshi, Jaiprakash Tripathi, Ashok Sharma Talwas welcomed the guest litterateurs by garlanding them and presented them with shawls and mementoes. All the litterateurs who were honored also expressed their views and presented their compositions and memoirs. Emphasis was laid on the recognition of Rajasthani language and its use in daily life as well. If we do not use our dialects traditionally, then they will be extinct, so it is necessary to use them. On the day of the program, the first session was conducted by INTACHco-convener Rajendra Bhardwaj. In the second session of the program, a poetry symposium was organized in which Piyush Pachak, Jaiprakash Tripathi, Sumit Vijay Shaili, Shailendra Singh Shalabh, Prakash Kasera Parcham, Ravi Sen, Sumant Bhati, Ramnarayan Rathore recited poetry.

2. A workshop on the topic "We and Heritage" was organized by Indian Cultural Fund INTACH Chapter Bundi in Mahatma Gandhi Higher Secondary School Rajat Grih Bundi in which boys and girls of the school and the school family participated. During the workshop, quiz programs were also organized in which questions related to the invaluable heritage of Bundi were answered by boys and girls and the school family. The winners were awarded by Indian Cultural Fund Chapter Bundi. Speaking on the topic of heritage and us in the program, Rajkumar Dadhich, coordinator of INTACH Chapter Bundi, said that the Indian Cultural Fund has protected the buildings of great importance in Bundi. The work of decorating the historical stepwell of Bundi is also being done by INTACH. The mansion of great poet Suryamall Mishran in Bundi was protected and given the form of a memorial. Chapter Coordinator Rajendra Bhardwaj, Chapter member Nand Prakash Sharma and other members were present. School Principal Shailwanti Gochar and the school family participated actively. The program was successfully conducted by Physical Teacher Rajiv Paba and he told the children about the importance of various rural games played in our heritage in their daily lives.



Sahitya Akademi Sahitya Sammelan Ceremony – Bundi Chapter

3. During Bundi Utsav, the INTACH Bundi Chapter captivated the audience with a mesmerizing display of magic. District Collector Akshay Godara flagged off magician Devanand, who amazed spectators by riding his bike blindfolded through the city. Thereafter, Devanand performed a live magic show on stage at Kumbha Stadium, leaving the audience spellbound with his extraordinary illusions.



Live magic show on stage at Kumbha Stadium- Bundi Chapter

Chittorgarh – Sub-chapter

INTACH Chittorgarh Team Conducts Heritage Walk and Clean-up Drive at Chittor Fort. Members of INTACH Chittorgarh Chapter organized a heritage walk at Chittor Fort, combining their efforts with a clean-up drive. As part of the initiative, volunteers removed bushes, shrubs, and garbage from key areas, including Kumbha Mahal, Suraj Gokhra, the veranda, and the chowk.

Equipped with protective gear, masks, and gloves, participants such as Dr. Kundan Jain, Manish Ajmera, Shantilal Bharadia, Bharat Maheshwari, Gaurav Bokadia, Ankit Maheshwari, Leela Agal, and Dinesh Bharadia dedicated their efforts to cleaning the main Kumbha complex of the World Heritage Fort Chittor.

On this occasion, Dr. Gopal Salvi provided insights into the historical significance and architectural features of Kumbha Mahal. Convener Dr. Sushila Laddha emphasized the importance of maintaining the fort's cleanliness and preservation. The team took a pledge to protect and maintain such historically significant sites.

Convener Manish Maliwal announced that, in observance of World Water Conservation Day on March 22, a seminar would be organized at Neel Baanv, near Kirti Stambh, with Dr. Kundan Jain appointed as the event coordinator.

Additionally, former Convener Vandana Vazirani highlighted the urgent need to protect Prakashasthambh, a historic site that is currently unsafe and unprotected.

Dr. Gopal Salvi was assigned to liaise with the District Collector and seek approval for its restoration from the Indian Cultural Fund headquarters in Delhi.



INTACH Chittorgarh Team Conducts Heritage Walk and Clean-up Drive at Chittor Fort – Chittorgarh Chapter

Jhalawar

1. 5 January 2025

Chapter members visited Badbela Wetland, a significant habitat for migratory birds. During their observations, they noted a decline in the number of Bar-Headed Geese and Grey-Headed Geese compared to previous years, raising concerns about environmental changes affecting the wetland ecosystem.

2. 9 January 2025

Efforts to conserve the historic aqueduct in Jhalawar continued with extensive media coverage, including television channels. District Collector Shri Ajay Singh Rathore took a keen interest in the project, ensuring both conservation and beautification of the site. Additionally, an information board detailing the site's history and significance was installed.

3. 13 -14 January 2025

Evidence of an ancient civilization has been discovered in the Manohar police station area of Jhalawar district. In response, the chapter reached out to Gaikwad University, Baroda, which promptly sent a scholar to conduct a detailed study of the site. Preliminary findings suggest that the area dates back to the Mauryan period, and a comprehensive report is expected soon.

4. 21 January 2025

At the request of the Jhalawar Chapter, the District Collector initiated the renovation of the Sant Ramanand Charan Paduka Chhatri, including the construction of an access road. To mark the 725th birth anniversary of Ramanandacharya Ji, a grand event was organized to raise public awareness about the historical importance of the Chhatri. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from District Collector Shri Ajay Singh Rathore, District administrative officers, Eminent citizens of Jhalawar, Saints and scholars, Students of Sankalp Sainik School and INTACH members. The event received extensive media coverage, further enhancing its impact.

5. 14 February 2025

NDTV Rajasthan broadcasted an interview with Chapter Convener Rajpal Sharma about Dalhanpur Math, a significant historical site in Jhalawar district. He emphasized the urgent need for conservation, following which the state government allocated funds for its preservation.

6. 15 February 2025

Colorful India Poster and Essay Competition

A poster and essay competition titled 'Colorful India' was organized at Emmanuel Mission School. The event saw participation from 72 students representing 8 government and private schools & teachers and INTACH members. To encourage student engagement, the chapter arranged snacks for all participants and distributed souvenirs as tokens of appreciation.

7. 24 February 2025

A 22-minute interview with Chapter Convener Rajpoot Sharma on "The Role of INTACH in the Conservation of Culture and Heritage" was aired on Akashvani Jhalawar. He elaborated on: the structure and objectives of INTACH, the methodologies employed in heritage conservation and ongoing projects at the local level.

The INTACH Jhalawar Chapter is actively supporting the establishment of a Jhalawar Gallery at the Jhalawar Museum. This dedicated gallery is expected to take shape soon, contributing to the preservation and promotion of the region's rich heritage.



A poster and essay competition titled 'Colorful India' – Jhalawar Chapter



Conserve the historic aqueduct in Jhalawar – Jhalawar Chapter

Kota

INTACH KOTA CHAPTER REPORT

An ambitious project of restoring and conservation of a state time lake known as 'Zohra Bai ka Talab' was taken up by Intach Kota. Tactics of a pressure group were put on Thermal power plant, and Local administration. With regular correspondence with the government, the Forest department finally took the charge and the conservation has now begun. This project is helmed by project head and life member Anil Sharma along with active participation of co-Convener BS Hada, AH Zaidi, Ekta Dhariwal, Brijesh Vijayvargiya, Dr. RK Jain and Prof. Dube.

Intach meeting was held at Sakasji ka Ashram which is a part of the Zohra Talab premises. The upcoming agendas were discussed.

Screening of Movie, 'Broken Trail' followed by a Talk by Shri. Daulat Singhji was conducted. At heritage building Sukhdham Kothi. This aimed at creating awareness amongst members regarding natural heritage.

We are glad to welcome two young art connoisseurs as new Life members for Intach Kota; Dildar Qureshi (Miniature artist, grandson of popular artist Lukman sab) & Ojaswi Maheshwari (Artist & art conservationist).

Intach Kota participated at different stages in Kota Mahotsav program. A heritage walk was also organised from Patanpole Mathuradheeshji Mandir to historic Rampura Bazaar. Intach Convener Nikhilesh Sethi was bestowed the honour of 'Best Traditional Dress' at this mahotsav by Honourable Lok Sabha Speaker Shri. Om Birla ji.

Convener Nikhilesh Sethi, Brijesh Vijevegiya conducted a meeting with Chief Wildlife warden, Mr. Upadhyay pointing out the problems to be solved in Mukundra Reserve and Ramgarh Vishdhari Reserve. Good and fruitful results are thus coming out.

Rao Surajmal Cenotaph of Kota was demolished by the administration. After several public protests and agitation, it is to be rebuilt. Intach Kota solely demanded construction of a connecting road from this cenotaph to the highway, which has been approved.

Under the beacon of encouraging cultural performances and intangible heritage INTACH Kota supported different NGOs (Convener Nikhilesh Sethi being a part of them) and Rajasthan Tourism Department in organising two such evenings. Bharatnatyam and Kathak dance performances by Teertha Poduval and Riddhi Mehar were done at the Padmanabhji Temple. Later a musical evening with classical singer Troilee Dutta was organised at historic Surajpole Darwaaza. Special thanks to DM Kota Dr. Ravindra Goswami for his presence and organising support.

A student tour for differently abled children (MukBadir school of life member Sarveshwari Raniwala) at the Kota museum was conducted. Intach members including Nikhilesh Sethi, Dr. Arvind Saxena, AH Zaidi etc. escorted the children and refreshments were given to them.

Intach Kota organised a bird watching program at Zohra Bai ka Talab with more than 60 participants who learned about different varieties of migratory birds from life members Dr. Krishnendra Nama & AH Zaidi. Other life members like Anil Sharma, architect Jyoti Saxena, BS Hada, were also present. Special thanks to DFO Anurag Bhatnagar for his patronage in this program.



A student tour for differently abled children at the Kota museum – Kota Chapter

Jodhpur

Brief Report: Rangarang Bharat - Poster Making Competition

Under the joint aegis of HECS and INTACH Jodhpur Chapter, the "Rangarang Bharat" Poster Competition was organized on 10th January, 2025, at the historic Chhatris of Panchkunda in Mandore, Jodhpur. The competition aimed to foster awareness of traditional festivals, customs, and cultural heritage among students from classes 7 to 9, helping them appreciate India's history, architecture, and traditions.

Invitations were sent to over 25 schools via email and personal letters. Despite extreme cold and winter vacations, 110 students from 9 schools participated enthusiastically. In the competition, the children depicted traditional folk dances like Ghoomar, Kalbelia, traditional Langa-Manganiyar community, festivals like Rakshabandhan, Deepawali, Gangaur, Makar Sankranti, Kaga Mela, Panchkunda's chhatris in historical heritage, Mandore Garden, Mehrangarh Fort, Red Fort, Kumbhalgarh Fort, ancient Blue City, historical statue of Rao Jodhaji, folk deity Baba Ramdevji, Maharana Pratap and Ayodhya's Ram temple as well as ancient art Jodhpur Bandhej, Marwar Festival through paintings and wrote their history and culture in words in essays.

On this occasion, INTACH co-convenor Bhagirath Vaishnav in his keynote address provided important information to the children about the historical Panchkunda's chhatris and INTACH's work.

Students from nine schools of Jodhpur participated in the poster making competition, including Delhi Public School, Sardar Doon Public School, Mahatma Gandhi Government School Balsamand, Mahatma Gandhi Government School Mandore No. 1, R.S. Public School, Mandore Public School, Guru Kripa C. Secondary School, GKV Modern Public School and Mayur Chapasani School. On this occasion, refreshments were arranged by INTACH Jodhpur Chapter for all the students, their accompanying parents and teachers.

On this occasion, members of INTACH Jodhpur Chapter including INTACH Co-convenor Bhagirath Vaishnav, Dharmanshu Bohra from Mehrangarh, Ratan Singh Champawat, Manisha Joshi, Ashok Kumar, Mrs. Subhashwati, Pradeep K Das, Lakshit Kachchhwaha, Pannes Singh, Vinay Pratap Singh, Deepika Prajapat, Nandkishore Gurjar, Sweta Mathur, Virendra Singh, Mahesh Vyas, Indrajit Sharma, Pramod Bhati, Mukesh Daga and teachers of schools etc. were present.

At the end of the program, guest Ratan Singh Champawat, Principal of Mahatma Gandhi English Medium School, Balsamand thanked everyone and thanked INTACH for organizing such events to enhance the psychological development of children and their knowledge about historical heritage.



Rangarang Bharat - Poster Making Competition- Jodhpur Chapter

Nagaur

The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) frequently organizes heritage walks to promote awareness of India's rich cultural legacy. These walks often involve school students and aim to educate them about local heritage. The details about a heritage walk conducted by INTACH during the Nagaur Fair between 31st January and 3rd February 2025. INTACH has a history of engaging with educational institutions to foster heritage awareness among students. The Nagaur Fair, also known as the Cattle Fair of Nagaur, is one of India's largest fairs, held annually in Nagaur, Rajasthan. The fair is renowned for the trading of approximately 70,000 animals, including bullocks, camels, and horses, all adorned in vibrant decorations. The event also features cultural activities such as camel dances, camel decoration, heritage walks, moustache competitions, and horse dances.



Cattle Fair of Nagaur – Nagaur Chapter

Sawai Madhopur

1. INTACH Foundation Day Celebrations in Gangapur City & Heritage Walk

On January 27, the INTACH Sawai Madhopur Chapter, in collaboration with Bhagwati Shikshan Sansthan celebrated INTACH Foundation Day in Gangapur City. Students were introduced to the history, objectives, and functioning of INTACH.

As part of the celebrations, a Heritage Walk was organized at Nazimwala Pond, where Dr. Krishna Kant Sharma, an INTACH member, shared insights about its historical significance. Constructed in 1899 during a famine by the then Nazim, the pond is over 125 years old and serves as a haven for birds from across India and abroad. Students were provided with detailed information about the various bird species found at the pond.

2. Two-Day Heritage Walk on Sawai Madhopur Foundation Day

On January 19-20, 2025, the INTACH Sawai Madhopur Chapter in collaboration with the Sawai Madhopur District Administration and the Rajasthan Tourism Department organized a two-day Heritage Walk to commemorate Sawai Madhopur Foundation Day. On the first day, a Heritage Walk commenced with a Shobha Yatra, featuring the participation of local dignitaries, domestic tourists, and international visitors. On this occasion, Convener Padam Khatri provided an in-depth overview of Sawai Madhopur's rich historical heritage. Specially printed pamphlets highlighting the city's heritage were distributed to attendees.

On the second day, The Heritage Walk began at Kala Gora Bhairav Temple, with 100 students from nine schools and colleges taking part. The walk concluded at Galta Temple, where Convener Hanuman Sharma guided the participants and provided detailed insights into the city's historical landmarks and cultural heritage. To ensure the students' comfort, the chapter also arranged refreshments for all participants.

In recognition of their dedication to heritage conservation and their efforts in making Foundation Day a success, the Rajasthan Tourism Department and the Sawai Madhopur District Administration honored the INTACH Sawai Madhopur Chapter for its contributions.



INTACH Foundation Day Celebrations in Gangapur City & Heritage Walk – Sawai Madhopur



Two-Day Heritage Walk on Sawai Madhopur Foundation Day – Sawai Madhopur

Udaipur

1. World Heritage Art Festival 2024 – Day 1 – 19 Dec 2024

A thought-provoking panel discussion with Mr. Kamlesh Sharma (Director, Information Center) and Mr. Laique Hussain (Director, Lok Kala Mandal) focused on "Reviving Ancient Water Management Systems: Lessons from India's Water Heritage."

2. World Heritage Art Festival 2024 – Day 2 – 20 Dec 2024

Mr. Gaurav Singhvi (Convener, INTACH Udaipur Regional Chapter), Mr. Mayank Trivedi (Principal, Maharana Mewar Public School), Ms. Dolly Mogra (Head, Textile Department, MLSU) participated in an insightful discussion on "Documenting and Digitizing Ancient Temples for Future Generations."

3. World Heritage Art Festival 2024 – Day 4 – 22 Dec 2024

Grand Finale of the World Heritage Art Festival 2024: Honoring Artists for Their Contribution to Art and Heritage Conservation

The grand finale of the four-day World Heritage Art Festival 2024 was held on December 22, 2024, at Urban Square Mall, Udaipur. This festival brought together Indian and Sri Lankan artists and heritage custodians, strengthening cultural and artistic ties between the two nations.

#Awardees Honoured at the Ceremony

During the closing ceremony, the following artists and heritage custodians were honoured with special awards:

Custodian of Heritage Design Excellence & Youth Engagement Award -

Mr. Gaurav Singhvi, India (Convener, Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage - Udaipur Chapter).

#Lifetime M.F. Hussain Award -

Mr. Chamila Mahantha Gamage, Sri Lanka (Architect and Art Installer).

#Contour Studio Award - Mr. Kushan Sanjaya Kumara Gee Kiyanaage, Sri Lanka (Sculptor).

Masterstroke Studio Award -Mr. Palligoda Vithanage Namal Pushpa Kumara, Sri Lanka (Painter).

The Brushwork Atelier Award -Mr. Dep Thushara Batuvita Pathiranage, Sri Lanka (Painter).

Key Highlights of the Event

The grand finale featured a spectacular dance drama based on the tale of "Ravan Vadh" and traditional fire acrobatics, which mesmerized the audience. Renowned artists from Sri Lanka and India impressed attendees with their extraordinary art pieces and cultural performances.

The festival commenced on December 19, 2024, attracting schoolchildren, creative enthusiasts, and art lovers who actively participated in workshops and learned various art forms.

4. Executive Meeting 3rd – 4 Jan 2025 held at Conveners Office at 176 -P, Bhupalpura, Udaipur

5. Poster Making & Essay Writing Competition – 9 Jan 2025 – Was conducted at Central Public School, Udaipur. 9 schools participated in it.

6. INTACH FILMIT INDIA FESTIVAL - 2024-25 - Date:8th feb 2025

Venue: Library. Maharana Mewar Public School.

Guest: Mr. Gaurav Singhvi, Convener, INTACH UDAIPUR CHAPTER, Mr. Sunil Vashisht, Life Member.

Chief Guest: Mr Gaurav Prabhakar

Participants: 36 students & 8 teachers from 4 schools of Udaipur.

1.Maharana Mewar Public school

2.Seedling Modern Public school

3.Rockwoods high school

4.St.Anthony high secondary school



INTACH Filmit India Festival- Udaipur Chapter



Poster Making & Essay Writing Competition – Udaipur Chapter



World Heritage Art Festival 2024 – Udaipur Chapter

Tamil Nadu Chennai

1. INTACH Talk by Ashkhen Khachatryan on 'The Armenians of Chennai: A bridge between east and west' at 6:30 pm.

About the talk

Armenians have been associated with India for over two millennia. The earliest known reference to Armenians visiting India is by the Greek historian Xenophon in the fourth century BC.

The first Armenian settlement in Madras dates to the 1660s.

The British allowed them to act as intermediaries between the Mughal Empire and European traders, as the Armenians were well known for their strong trading skills, multilingual abilities and economic understanding.

The Armenian Church in Georgetown is one of the most visited heritage places and key landmarks of the Armenian presence in Chennai. It was built in 1712 in old Black Town and rebuilt in 1772 in its current location.

The Armenian community in Chennai played a significant role in the city's development, particularly in trade, commerce and the arts.

The talk takes you through when and why the Armenians came to India and the Armenian Heritage in Chennai.

About the Speaker

Anhkhen Khachatryan is an Armenian who is passionate about researching the Armenian heritage in India. She is married to Chennai-based Kapilan Jesudian and has now been living in Chennai for over a decade. She is a local Armenian historian, the coordinator in South India for Indo-Armenian Friendship NGO and an active member of the Armenian community in India.

Chennai

1. Talk on “The Armenians of Chennai: A bridge between east and west” By Ashkhen Khachatryan on November 28, 2024 at Ashvita’s Gallery, Mylapore, Chennai.

Ashkhen, an Armenian based in Chennai since 2014 , a local historian and coordinator of South India for the Indo-Armenian Friendship NGO gave a background of the history of Armenia and explained how Armenians moved out for trade.

Their association with India goes back to the period of visit of Greek King Alexander the Great, when Armenians were part of the Greek forces.

The first Armenian settlement in Madras can be traced to the 1660s.

Armenians have left their mark at several iconic spots in Madras.

Unlike other nations which came to India for trade but went on to colonise India, Armenians restricted themselves to trade and contributed much to the city.

The Marmalong Bridge in Saidapet across Adyar River was the first brick bridge in Madras, built from the personal funds of Coja Petrus Uskan, to help devotees visit St Thomas Mount. The 161 steps in St Thomas Mount to reach the church were also built by Coja Petrus. The brick bridge across the river changed Madras tremendously.

Armenian markings are present in St Thomas Church, St Rita’s Chapel in Santhome Higher Secondary School, and many other places.

The Armenian Church in Georgetown is one of the oldest churches in Chennai.

Once every year, service in this Church is held in Armenian when members from the community from other parts of the country join them in Chennai. This also serves as a yearly get together of the community.

Ashkhen gave a passionate presentation which kept the audience enthralled.

INTACH Chennai Chapter was honoured by the presence of Consul General (Hon) of Republic of Armenia, Mr. Shivkumar Eashwaran at the meeting, who shared his insights on Armenia.



Talk on “The Armenians of Chennai: A bridge between east and west” By Ashkhen Khachatryan – Chennai Chapter

2. “Madras High Court Heritage Walk “by Sujatha Shankar, Convener INTACH Chennai Chapter & Advocate N.L. Rajah conducted for Inner Wheel on January 5, 2025 at Madras High Court, Chennai.

INTACH Chennai Chapter along with Madras High Court conducted a Heritage walk of the magnificent High Court Precinct on the 5th January, 2025. A group of about 50 heritage enthusiasts of Inner Wheel participated and walked through the grounds, corridors, several courts including chief justice's court, library, light house and museum. The walk was led by advocate N.L. Rajah, narrating stories and incidents of several important cases of the Madras High Court and Sujatha Shankar, Convener, Chennai Chapter, INTACH highlighting the architectural glories of the structure.



"Madras High Court Heritage Walk" by Sujatha Shankar, Convener INTACH Chennai Chapter & Advocate N.L. Rajah – Chennai Chapter

3. "Temples visited by all of the Trinity" by Vidvan R.K. Sriram Kumar, Vidushi Amritha Murali & Vidvan K. Arunprakash on January 23, 2025 at Ashvita's Gallery, Mylapore, Chennai.

Three great 18th century composers – Shyama Shastri (1762-1827), Tyagaraja (1767-1847), and Muthuswami Dikshitar (1775-1835) who form the Trinity of Carnatic music, created musical compositions on deities and temples on their pilgrimages.

A presentation on temples visited by all three composers and their special musical offerings at these shrines was made onby Vidvan R.K. Shriram Kumar, renowned musician, whose solo performances, lec-dems and workshops have drawn accolades from audiences worldwide. He was ably accompanied by Vidushi Amritha Mural, an accomplished violinist and Vidvan K. Arunprakash, mridangist.

The artists focused on the temples visited by all of the Trinity and where they created the glorious, special musical offerings with stories and historical anecdotes interspersed with musical renderings.



"Temples visited by all of the Trinity" by Vidvan R.K. Sriram Kumar, Vidushi Amritha Murali & Vidvan K. Arunprakash – Chennai Chapter

4. "Celebrating India" National Poster and Essay Competition by Young INTACH, Chennai Chapter on February 1, 2025, at Sri Sankara Vidhashramam Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Thiruvannamiyur, Chennai.

February 1, 2025 - CELEBRATING INDIA NATIONAL POSTER AND ESSAY COMPETITION

Young INTACH, Chennai Chapter Hosts Annual Poster and Essay Competition

Young INTACH, Chennai Chapter, conducted its annual Poster and Essay Competition on Saturday, 1st February, at Sri Sankara Vidyashramam Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Thiruvannamiyur, Chennai. A total of 112 students from Grades 7 to 9, representing 20 schools, participated in this event, conceptualized by the Heritage Education and Communication Service (HECS) division of INTACH.

The event commenced with a prayer led by the students, followed by a warm welcome address from Ms. Shashirekha, Principal of Sri Sankara Vidyashramam. Senior INTACH member Ms. Sushila Natraj expressed gratitude to the host school and provided a brief introduction to INTACH before announcing the theme of the competition for the year.

Young INTACH member Ms. Shama Prasanna extended her thanks to the school, teachers, support staff, and INTACH members – Ms. Gita Chandru, Ms. Dipika Anand, and Ms. ChitraSekar – for their support and presence. She then introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Pradeep Chakravarthy, a historian with a PhD on the role of temples in the socio-economic and political life of medieval Tamil Nadu. Drawing from his latest book, *'A History of South India for Children: From Prehistory to Vijayanagara'*, he captivated the audience with insights on astro-agriculture and its lasting impact on people's lives, amongst various other interesting anecdotes on our culture and the importance of these in our lives.

As a token of appreciation, INTACH Convener Ms. Sujatha Shankar presented mementos to both the host school principal and the guest speaker.

The competition provided students with 2.5 hours to create a poster or painting, accompanied by a 300-word write-up explaining their artistic interpretation. The entries displayed remarkable creativity and will be forwarded to HECS for evaluation.

The event was a testament to the ingenuity of young minds and their passion for cultural education. It was inspiring to witness the students' enthusiasm as they explored and expressed their appreciation for heritage and history – proving that they are indeed the torchbearers of our nation's rich legacy.



"Celebrating India" National Poster and Essay Competition by Young INTACH, Chennai Chapter – Chennai Chapter

5. A popular protest in British India: V. O. Chidambaram Pillai and the Tirunelveli Uprising by A.R. Venkatchalapathy, Sahitya Academy Awardee 2024 on February 27, 2025 at Ashvita's Gallery, Mylapore, Chennai.

Author A. R. Venkatachalapathy, who has been awarded the Sahitya Academy Award in 2024, spoke on February 27th, 2025 on "A popular protest in British India: V.O. Chidambaram Pillai and the Tirunelveli uprising", based on his award-winning book 'Tirunelveli Ezhuchiyum Vaa Vuu Ciyum 1908'.

He is Professor at the Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai, and specializes in the social, cultural and intellectual history of modern Tamil Nadu. He has taught at universities in Tirunelveli, Chennai, Singapore, and Chicago. A recipient of the V.K.R.V. Rao Prize (History, 2007) and the Mahakavi Bharati Award (Govt of Tamil Nadu, 2022), he has also received the Vilakku Pudumaippithan Award (2018) and Iyal Virudhu (2021), both for lifetime contribution to Tamil. Venkatachalapathy has written/edited over thirty books in Tamil. His publications in English include Swadeshi Steam: V.O. Chidambaram Pillai and the Battle Against the British Maritime Empire.

The people of Tirunelveli and Tuticorin rose up in protest on 13 March 1908, following the arrest of V.O. Chidambaram Pillai at the height of the Swadeshi movement and attacked British government offices and establishments. Following this, the police opened fire, convicted and killed many protesters. This protest finds detailed mention in the infamous Sedition (Rowlatt) Committee Report.

Venkatachalapathy drew from hitherto unknown documents and narrated not only the events but also the causes and consequences of the protest.



V.O. Chidambaram Pillai (1872-1936)



Talk on a popular protest in British India: V. O. Chidambaram Pillai and the Tirunelveli Uprising by A.R. Venkatchalapathy, SahityaAkademi Awardee 2024 – Chennai Chapter

Coimbatore

ENDANGERED ARTS AND CRAFT AWARENESS WORKSHOP By INTACH Coimbatore Chapter On December 12, 2024, the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) Coimbatore Chapter conducted a compelling workshop on endangered arts and crafts at Vivekalaya's Vichara World School. The event saw enthusiastic participation from 109 students representing six different schools. Art Therapy Practitioner and Art Tutor, Shakkeela Manoj, journeyed from Trivandrum to lead the workshop. She introduced the students to the intricacies of Madhubani art, covering its history, traditional patterns, vibrant colors, and unique techniques. A simplified three-layered fish motif was chosen for the hands-on activity, allowing the students to experience the joy of creating Madhubani art firsthand. The participating students displayed remarkable talent and a keen interest in learning. Art teachers from the respective schools provided guidance and support throughout the session. The event was honored by the presence of Mrs. Kalaivani Chengappa, a former Convener of INTACH Coimbatore Chapter, graced the occasion with her participation. Ms Aishwarya Rao, Director of Vivekalaya Group of Institutions and Chapter Director for Heritage Education provided ample support for the event and also addressed the students on the importance of art in holistic learning. Mr. Vigneshvaran, a new member of INTACH, was also present at the workshop. INTACH Coimbatore also expresses its gratitude to Aishwarya Rao and the Vivekalaya Group of Institutions for their ongoing commitment to fostering art, culture, and heritage education among young learners.



Arts and Craft Awareness Workshop- Coimbatore Chapter

Nagercoil

INTACH Nagercoil Chapter had conducted a 1000 Palmyra seeds planting drive at Scott Christian College. It is in line with the invitation to INTACH from District Collector Azhagu Meena, IAS to take part in the Tamil Nadu Government's Movement to plant 1 Crore Palmyra seeds across Tamil Nadu.

PALMYRA FOREST

Palmyrah (*Borassus flabellifer*) is the state tree of Tamil Nadu. Palmyra trees had been an integral part of Tamil life, the leaves being used for manuscripts in ancient days, to the split trunk being used as roof joists. When the Cyclone Gaja and Oki hit the southern parts of India, the damage was huge. Acres of cultivated plantations and farms suffered heavily. Huge branches had snapped and trees lay uprooted. Even coconut trees had snapped to 3 to 4 parts in many places.

However, most of the palmyra trees stood firm and rooted and were intact. When tsunami hit the coastal areas, the palmyra trees played haven to many who survived by climbing up or thrown up by the giant waves.

That was when the ecologists and environmentalists turned their attention towards the much neglected crop. Planted around water bodies, they are believed to recharge water. According to our member Dr. Sobhana Raj, Botanist and Retired Principal of Scott Christian College, Nagercoil, “the roots of Palmyra tree has a central fibre surrounded by a spongy layer that stores water. They play a significant role in circulation of water in aquifers,” he said, citing an academic paper. “Cut root exudes water. Though it has not been proven, it’s possible that the roots help in recharging water”. The fibrous roots bind the soil well because of its nature to spread wide and go deep. **Thus, prevents soil erosion and conserves soil moisture.**

Movement to Conserve and Revive the State Tree

The palm manuscripts from ancient times added timeless treasures of classical epics like ‘Silapathikaram’ and ‘Manimehalai’ and “Thirukural’ to the rich cultural heritage of Tamil Nadu. It is the part of Tamil legacy. There were references to palmyra trees in ancient Tamil Literature.

Each part of the tree from trunk to seeds have socio economic benefits with much value-added products. Houses are built with the sturdy trunk, leaves are used to thatch huts, fruits are edible and the bye products are jaggery which plays a vital role in food and beverage industry. Today, the mildly intoxicated drink distilled from palm trees still prevalent among villagers, especially during their festivals. The cultural importance is widely known with the culture of worshipping palm trees in many villages. Even now in many villagers, they grow palmyra trees around their land boundaries and water bodies in their private possession as a demarcation because of its longevity. A normal tree lives up to 100 to 130 years. With changes in cultural and social milieu, they lost their importance. In realty and industrial agriculture, they were considered worthless and axed, resulting in significant loss in tree count. With the younger generation preferring other jobs, the number of climbers declined. This led to farmers selling palms in their land and village committees selling those in common land, as firewood to brick kilns.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Mr. M. K. Stalin has initiated a movement to plant One Crore Palmyra Seeds. INTACH, Nagercoil Chapter was invited to join the Movement by the Kanyakumari Agri and Horticulture Department along with the Palm Seed Planting Mission. Convener Anitha Natarajan attended the meeting at the District Collector’s office on 20-09-2024.

1000 Palmyra Seed Planting by INTACH, Nagercoil Chapter on 29th October 2024 at Scott Christian College Campus, to create Palmyra Forest

Convener Anitha S. Natarajan organized and conducted a massive Palmyra Seed Planting drive at Scott Christian College on 29th of October, 2024.

Empowering a greener future, INTACH Nagercoil Chapter successfully organized the 'Planting 1000 Palmyra Seeds' program at Scott Christian College, aligning with INTACH's mission to protect heritage. As the Convener of this prestigious organisation Anitha Natarajan had organised this successful program.

Nagercoil Corporation Mayor Thiru R. Mahesh inaugurated the program by planting the first seed. Mayor R. Mahesh in his speech, to motivate the students said that Palmyra Trees had great economic importance because years back it was the livelihood of a particular community and now that community has developed a lot both socially and economically and he stands before them much empowered as the proud Mayor belonging to that community".

Our valuable guest Mrs. Sheela John, Deputy Director, Department of Horticulture and Plantation Crops released the pamphlets and spoke about the importance of planting Palmyra seeds. Ms. Nina Joseph, Green Fellow of Kanyakumari District spoke on the importance of mitigating climate change by planting trees like palmyra. Lion FM Selvaraj helped to procure seeds.

Our member Mr. Joe Prakash, District Coordinator, National Green Corps prepared the pamphlets and coordinated this event.

Our members Mr. P.Nallaperumal, Mr. S.Prem Dhas, Mr. Pasumai Sahul, Dr. N.Vijayakumar, Mr. Abraham Lincoln, Mr. Siluvai Vasthian, Mrs. Latha Ramaswamy, Mrs. Shyamala Padmesh, Mrs. Jeyanthi Neela Sivalingaswamy, Mrs.N.NeelaBai (Rekha) contributed for the success of this program by their tireless efforts which brought this ambitious project to life.

Dr. Henry Raja, Principal of Scott Christian College, Dr.Jeeva, Department of Botany, Vice Principal Dr. Dulip Daniels extended their support to conduct this program at the campus of Scott Christian College.

Mr.Anbaiyan (writer of a book 'Panaiyodu Uravadu') staff and students- participated. Without their support it would not be possible.

To quote Nelson Henderson, " The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit".

Let's do our best to make this planet a better place for our children.



1000 Palmyra seeds planting drive at Scott Christian College- Nagercoil Chapter

2. Seminar on Conserving the Marine Biodiversity of Kanyakumari A call to Action & 25th Silver Jubilee Vadasery Ulavar Market

Seminar on 'Marine Biodiversity of Kanyakumari' was held on 14th of November at 5.30 Pm in Hotel Pioneer Grand Palace. Dr.Jeni Padua, Dean, Holy Cross College was the keynote speaker. She presented a very informative power point on Marine life and have polluting the sea oceans impact the growth or populate of the marine life. Highlights of her presentation.

Honored to have been invited as the speaker for an engaging meeting organized by the INTACH Nagercoil Chapter at Hotel Pioner Grand Palace on 14th November 2024. INTACH Convener Mrs. Anitha Natarajan for inviting me. Delivered a presentation on Marine Biodiversity emphasizing the urgent need to protect our marine ecosystems.

The message is clear. Conserve our natural resources.

Say no to plastic waste.

Stop polluting our water bodies

Protect our oceans for future generation.

IMPACT OF PLASTICS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

- Asia is the world leader in plastic pollution. In 30 years, we are likely to have more plastics in our oceans than fish. Over 600 marine species are affected by plastics. Nearly 45,000 marine animals have ingested plastics and 80% have been injured or killed (69).

- The amount of plastics that are piling up as garbage in the ocean is a matter of great concern as it forms a plastic soup and enters the body of marine biota by adsorption, ingestion and penetration.

- Plastic waste travelling with the ocean currents has formed an island of trash called the "Great Pacific Garbage Patch". The Great Pacific Garbage Patch (GPGP) is the largest of the five offshore plastic accumulation zones in the world.

- The massive amount of plastic debris that has been discarded and has ended up in the ocean accumulates forming a plastic soup. And as plastic does not biodegrade, the soup continues to expand in size. The world's highest concentration of plastic soup was discovered in the North Pacific gyre, of the world's five largest ocean gyres.

- Plastic soup can have major environmental consequences, not only because harmful fumes spread and reach land, but also because we consume fish contaminated with these plastics and micro plastics.

- Scientists estimate that 50-80% of the oxygen

- Oxygen production on Earth comes from the ocean. The majority of this production is from oceanic plankton – drifting plants, algae, and some bacteria that can photosynthesize. One particular species, *Prochlorococcus*, is the smallest photosynthetic organism on Earth. But this little bacteria produces up to 20% of the oxygen in our entire biosphere.

- Due to plastic pollution, aquatic plants and algal blooms may also die and the decomposition process uses oxygen faster than it can be replenished. This can create areas of extremely low oxygen concentrations, or hypoxia. These areas are often called dead zones, because the oxygen levels are too low to support most marine life.

4. Uzhavar Sandhai, Vadasery, Kanyakumari District – 25th Silver Jubilee day

Uzhavar Sandhai is a program in Tamil Nadu that connects farmers directly with consumers, without the involvement of middlemen. The program was introduced in 1999 by the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. The first Uzhavar Sandhai was inaugurated in Madurai on 14th November 1999. The objective of the scheme was to promote direct contact between farmers and consumers, through which the farmer can get full profit without middlemen or brokers.

In the field of agriculture, marketing determines the value of the agricultural product in terms of money and delivers them to the final customer, Most of the farmers sell their produce through village level markets, fairs, Mandies, Co-operative Societies etc. In the above process of agricultural marketing, the middlemen exploit farmers as well as consumers. In order to eliminate the middlemen between farmers and consumers, the Govt of Tamiladu introduced the new concept, namely 'Üzhavar Santhai' in 1999.

Generally, the middlemen and wholesale businessmen purchase the Agricultural products from the farmers at a lower price. They also get the commission from the farmers for the transactions made. In turn, fresh vegetables and fruits purchased at the lower price from the farmers are sold out to retail businessmen at higher price and the retail businessmen sell those Agricultural Products further at higher price to the consumers. As a result, the farmers get only the lower price for their produce whereas the consumers have to pay higher price for the same produce. Hence, the Government of Tamilnadu has introduced an alternate scheme of marketing, which is known as 'Üzhavar Santhai' in order to derive more benefits to the farmers as well as consumers.



Seminar on Conserving the Marine Biodiversity of Kanyakumari - Nagercoil Chapter

5. Heritage Tour to commemorate WORLD HERITAGE WEEK 2024

On 14th of December, 2024 INTACH Nagercoil Chapter under the leadership of Convener Anitha Natarajan organised and conducted a "Heritage Tour" to commemorate WORLD HERITAGE WEEK 2024(a month later) to a few places of heritage richness to explore the diverse cultural and historical importance.

Purpose: The Heritage Tour was organised to instil values of our rich cultural diversity, richness to our members. We visited the following places.

6. Swamithope Ayya Vaikunder Thalamaipathy Temple & visit to Anbuvanam (forest of love) and also to the Museum

Sri Vaikunda Swamikal contributed a great deal for the modernization of the Hindu Society in South Travancore. He was one of the Pioneers of social reform movements in India.

He was born in 1809 at Awamithoppu, a small village near Kanyakumari. He was named Mudisoodum (crowned) Perumal when he was born because a divine light shone on his face. This irked the high caste people and they took that to the Government officials. The society was such at the time only caste people could name their children as "Perumal".

His name was changed to Muthukutty. He studied in the Thinnai Pallikondan since they were denied entry to schools. He was afflicted with dermatitis soon after his marriage at the age of 17. His mother took him to Thiruchendur temple. As part of the custom, when Muthukutty was dipping in the sea at Thiruchendur, a giant wave took him in. He was not to be seen anywhere and on the third day reappeared as Ayya Vaikundar” as the incarnation of Narayana. His writings “Akila Thirattu Ammanai” is being considered as the holy book of his followers all over the world.

INTACH Nagercoil Chapter had the privilege to visit the Thalamaipathy of Ayya Vaikundar and met Sri. Balaprajathipathy who is the head of this religious organization and enjoyed the hospitality. We were allowed to visit the ‘Anbuvanam’ (a forest of love) and ‘the Museum’ which are not allowed to the general public. The museum has a collection of traditional antique articles which were used by the people of Kanyakumari District decades ago, some belonged to a few centuries ago, and in tune with the tradition and custom of the people of Kanyakumari.

7. Parakkai Perunchadayar Mahadevar Temple

INTACH, Nagercoil Chapter visited the Ancient Shiva Temple at Parakkai Perunchadayar Mahadevar Temple. This 10th century old temple is situated at Parakkai Akarai. It was built by the old Pandiya king in Pandiya architectural style of construction. It is believed that “Pambatti Siddar” lived here for some time and there is a statue for him. It was built by the Pandiya King Sadayan Maran. It was built in the architectural style of old Pandhya dynasty. It was renovated by Sri Vallaman. Right under the entrance there is a stone inscription with ‘Vattezhuthu’. Convener and members of INTACH Nagercoil Chapter had visited the temple on 14.12.2024 and our member Mr. Chenthee Natarajan explained about the nuances to understand the architectural style-according to him every 100 years it changes which would be indicated by a certain detail in sculptures.

8. Parakkai Madhusoothana Perumal Temple

INTACH Nagercoil Chapter members visited Parakkai Madhusoothana Perumal Temple as part of the Heritage Tour organised on 14.12.2024 by the convener. This temple is situated on the west bank of Landan Kulam. Maha Vishnu is worshipped as Mathusoothana Perumal. Madhu meeting Asura and Soodhanan meaning annihilated, “Vishnu who kills asura”. This temple is a fine example to show that Shaivism and Vaishnavism existed in harmony in Kanyakumari district. This temple is a Vishnu Temple but we could see the sculptures of Shaivism, for example “Kannappar” sculptures.

On the western corner of the temple there is a statue of a Garuda (Eagle or Kite) and there is a story about it. A Sthathapathy, one who does sculptures, was asked to make a sculpture of Garuda. It was so accurate and flawless that the Garuda got alive and started flying. The Sthathapathy threw his tool at the Garuda. It lost its one wing but managed to fly to this part of the land. To quench his thirst, he flew all over the place and found a waterbody. It is known as “Kandan Kulam” meaning “found a pond”. The place where the Garuda fell was called as Garuda Mukku in the South west corner of the temple. A statue of the Garuda is installed in his place.

The name ‘Parakkai’ derived from this incident meaning “Paravaikku Arasar” meaning King of the birds.

The temple is filled with architectural marvel. There are hundreds of sculptures from Krishna Leela to Kalki Avatar.

Members of INTACH Nagercoil Chapter were enlightened with many valuable information on various topics the time of construction of the temple, style, stones connected with each by our member Sri. Chenthee Natarajan.

Telangana Hyderabad

Obituary

Mrs. Selma Aminuddin Khan born on 1st Jan 1934 passed away on the 8th of February 2024. She was the wife of Late Dr Aminuddin Khan (DOD 8th April 2024) and the daughter of the Late Dr Syed Husain Zaheer
(Membership number was L/8021)



Late Selma Aminuddin Khan – Hyderabad Chapter

Warangal

1. INTACH Warangal Chapter sponsored and actively associated with the World Heritage Volunteer Camp 2024, which was organised by Kakatiya Heritage Trust, Warangal at Ramappa during October 15 - 26, 2024. World Heritage Centre (WHC, Paris approved the proposal to conduct World Heritage Volunteer Camp 2024 at UNESCO inscribed World Heritage Monument Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple, Palampet, Mulug District. A total number of 40 volunteers (from different states) belonging to Architecture, Civil Engineering, Tourism, History, Archaeology and Geology have participated. Prof M. Pandu Ranga Rao, Convener Warangal Chapter and Trustee Kakatiya Heritage Trust and Mr. J. Srihari Rao were the coordinators of the WHV Camp 2024. In addition, at the request of Principal Secretary, YAT&C another 40 candidates from Yuva Tourism Clubs members belonging to Kakatiya University, University Arts and Science College, Government Pingle College, Govt. Degree college Mulugu and City College, Hyderabad have participated in the program.

All these volunteers have reported on 14th October 2024 and were lodged in the cottages of Ramappa lake adjoining the Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple site. 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.

The volunteers were exposed to renovation and restoration activities of Kakatiya monuments with special reference to Geo-Engineering principles, construction technology and Material selection, methods used for the restoration of the monuments. They were also exposed to the removal and rebuilding of Kalyana Mandapam of Thousand Pillar Temple an ASI monument which is being restored using the principles of Agama Sastra and Anastylis. This is being restored using same materials for construction including sand box at the foundation without using cement, iron and concrete and without 1mm variation from its original structure. This is the first of its kind in India and is presumably will sustain for another 1000 years. The twelve-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)-2024 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.

2. Heritage awareness programme was organised on 6th January 2025, for 6th to 9th class students of Telangana Social Welfare Residential School and Junior College, Oorugonda. Prof Deva Pratap, Co-convenor addressed the students about INTACH and its role on conservation and preservation of our monuments. INTACH organises several activities for educating on different in conservation of the heritage structures and monuments for future generation. Dr Racharla Ganapathi, Member INTACH addressed the students and impressed upon them the significant contribution by Kakatiya rulers to this region by constructing large number of major water bodies which include Ramappa, Laknavaram and Pakhal Lakes besides numerous small water tanks to provide water supply for drinking and irrigation purposes. Sri Sammaiah, Principal and faculty addressed the students.

3. INTACH Warangal Chapter organized Celebrating India. an all-India poster making competition for school students of 7- 9 classes on 28th January 2025 at SR Prime School Campus, Bhattupalli, Hanamkonda. A total number of 182 students from SR Prime School and SR Prime Cambridge International school of this region have participated in the competition. Prof. Deva Pratap, Co-convenor addressed the students about INTACH and its activities on conservation of our heritage and monuments. He briefed about the role of students in conservation of our heritage and monuments, and heritage of Kakatiyas and their contribution to this region. Members of INTACH Warangal Chapter and School Teachers addressed the students and briefed about the Celebrating India Poster Making Competition and guidelines. 10 faculty members from both the schools were present and conducted the competition in a organised manner.



All India Poster Making Competition – Warangal Chapter



Group photo of volunteers at Ramappa Temple – Warangal Chapter

Uttar Pradesh

Gorakhpur

1. INTACH GORAKHPUR CHAPTER organised all India painting and poster competition on Theme CELEBRATING INDIA on 15th December 2024 at M. G. Inter college Bank Road Gorakhpur. The report of the programme is as hereunder.

Letter were sent to 10 schools in prescribed format for participation of their students. But the actual presence was about 80 students from class 7 to 9.

The programme started with impressive and motivating lecture From Dr. Pragya Chaturvedi head of dept of ancient history, Deendayal Upadhyay Gorakhpur university. She in her lecture explained to students about importance of conservation of our intangible heritage.

After her lecture painting and poster competition started. Students were provided A-3,A-4 paper for poster and essay respectively. In a time allotted the students produced many beautiful posters on intangible cultural heritage of the area.

Lot of members of INTACH Gorakhpur chapter and eminent citizens along with teachers of respective schools were present.



All India painting and poster competition on Theme CELEBRATING INDIA – Gorakhpur Chapter

2. An MOU was signed on 18th October 2024 between INTACH and Deendayal Upadhyay Gorakhpur university, Gorakhpur for mutual cooperation for heritage conservation and awareness. Subsequently in the spirit of that M.O.U the university has allotted approx 16000 sq feet land in ancient history department for plantation of near Extinction fruit plant sapling and name it as heritage vatika.

on 15th February plantation of sapling of the fruit plant took place in the above premises. Hon'ble Vice chancellor Prof. Poonam Tandon was chief guest on the occasion, and she started plantation with the sapling of RED CHANDAN. Lot of plant of extinct varieties such as GOLWA LITCHI, JAMRUL RED AND WHITE, PANIYALA, BARHAL, GARAM MASALA etc were planted. A Plaque containing name of variety in HINDI, ENGLISH and their botanical name were also placed in front of plants. Faculty members of ancient history department, registrar of university, sampada adhikari, deans of various faculties also participated. INTACH members present also planted the sapling. After plantation in a meeting in which members of INTACH, students, and lot of dignitaries of university were present Prof. Pragya Chaturvedi HOD ancient history department welcome all and thanked INTACH. Prof. Rajwant Rao Dean of Faculty of ARTS told in detail about INTACH, and the long-standing cooperation between university and INTACH Gorakhpur chapter.

Vice chancellor thanked INTACH for this Vatika and said that people say that MOU sign remain only in paper, but this is an example. She said that this is only a beginning and she sought help of INTACH in digitalization of various artefact dated even 5000 years and planning a museum for them.

M.P. Kandoi convener INTACH Gorakhpur chapter said that it is a beginning, and INTACH is ready to provide its all resources for heritage conservation, Heritage education to student, training of faculty for heritage works. He also thanked university for providing space. lot of members of INTACH, faculty members, students were present on the occasion.



An MOU was signed and plantation of fruit plant sapling – Gorakhpur Chapter

3. Before the formation of Gorakhpur, I as an INTACH member raised the issue of demolition of 500 year old Basant Sarai, a fort of Satashi Naresh Basant Singh. On the intervention of INTACH the demolition of the said building was stopped.

Thereafter Gorakhpur chapter was formed, and chapter started listing of heritage sites. Beside this INTACH team visited and prepared a report of conservation.

After listing chapter proposed that in 1st stage 4 heritage sites Basant Sarai, reed Saheb ka Dharamsala, Ghantaghar and Moti jail should be declared protected site and should be conserved.

The maneuver of INTACH resulted when in the newspaper report was published that first gazette notification for declaring Basant Sarai and Reed Saheb ka Dharamsala has been issued.

This is an achievement for INTACH. It is also pertinent to mention that these two monuments are first to be declared as protected monument of city.

INTACH Gorakhpur chapter is doing continues effort to declare other heritage sites as protected monuments also.

4. Annual flower show was a regular event of Gorakhpur city, but it was not in practice since 1990.

INTACH in collaboration with 80-year-old Rotary club Gorakhpur (present convener of INTACH Sri M. P. Kandoi is president of this club this year) decided to restart this. Rotary club Gorakhpur was main organizer and INTACH Gorakhpur chapter was partner organised this event on 23rd February 2025. at Rajkot Udyan Gorakhpur

More than 1500 pots of flower are there and beside this stall of cactus and bonsai were there. The show was visited by more than 5000 visitors.



Annual flower show at Gorakhpur city – Gorakhpur Chapter

Lalitpur

A grand function was organized under coordination of Convener Shri Santosh Sharma to mark the 51 st anniversary of Lalitpur becoming a district. The day began with the energetic Run Lalitpur race at 7:00 am, in which 500 runners participated. The District Magistrate, Mr. Akshay Tripathi, and Superintendent of Police, Mr. Mushtaq Ahmed flagged off the race and even joined the run themselves. At 11:00 am, Jhansi Commissioner Mr. Bimal Kumar Dubey and DIG Mr. Keshav Kumar Chaudhary inaugurated and visited a special exhibition on heritage and tourism held at the Kalyan Singh Auditorium.

In the evening, a grand felicitation ceremony took place in the premises of Shri Tuvan Temple, where 101 distinguished personalities of Lalitpur were honored in the presence of thousands of spectators. National artists showcased vibrant Bundelkhand cultural performances, and renowned comedian Jai Vijay Sachan (from Mumbai) had the audience in splits with his delightful humor. This grand event was organized by Dainik Jagran, Bureau Chief Dr. Sanjeev Bajaj, Bajaj Power Plant, GM Mr. Rajiv Srivastava, the INTACH Lalitpur Chapter, and several other organizations.

Meerut

1. Heritage Tour - INTACH, Meerut Chapter

Meerut, November 16 – The INTACH Meerut Chapter organized an enriching heritage tour for students of Shri Ram Sahai Inter College, Meerut, offering them a blend of historical insight and industrial knowledge. The tour commenced with a visit to the historic Pura Mahadev Temple, believed to have been established by Lord Parshuram and steeped in fascinating legends. Thereafter, the students were taken to the Bajaj Hindustan Limited Sugar Mill in Kinauni, Meerut, where they observed the process of sugar production firsthand. At the mill, the students attended a session in the conference hall, where they learned about sugarcane cultivation, sugar production, alcohol production, and press mud processing. Mr. K.P. Singh, Senior Vice President of the Mill and an INTACH member, also spoke about employment opportunities in the industry and the qualifications required for various roles.

The tour was led by Mr. A.K. Johri, Co-Convener of INTACH, and was officially flagged off by Dr. R.K. Bhatnagar, Convener by hoisting the flag. Several esteemed INTACH members, including Mr. A.K. Jeweler, Mr. Rajneesh Prakash Tyagi, and Mr. K.P. Pradhan, were also present.

2. Farmers Need a Messiah

Meerut, December 23: The 122nd birth anniversary of former Prime Minister of India and the revered "Messiah of Farmers," Chaudhary Charan Singh, was celebrated with great devotion and enthusiasm at Five Star Resort, NH 58, Khirva Bypass. The event, organized jointly by INTACH, Meerut Chapter, and the All India Kayastha Mahasabha, Meerut, featured a havan, puja, and floral tributes in his honor. Several distinguished personalities gathered to pay homage and share their reflections on his legacy.

During the event, A.K. Johri, Provincial President and Co-Convener of the All India Kayastha Mahasabha, INTACH, Meerut Chapter highlighted Chaudhary Charan Singh's lifelong contributions to farmers' welfare, dating back to 1937. He emphasized the simplicity of his life and urged everyone to draw inspiration from his selfless service. Johri recalled that Chaudhary Charan Singh introduced the Agricultural Produce Market Bill in the Assembly in 1938, which was first implemented in Punjab in 1940 before being adopted by most Indian states. As Revenue Minister in 1952, he played a pivotal role in enacting the Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, bringing significant reforms to the agrarian sector.

The event's Chief Guest was Mr. Sheel Vardhan, Senior Member of INTACH, Meerut Chapter, while the special guest was Mr. K.P. Pradhan from Khirva, Nauabad. The program was seamlessly hosted by A.K. Johri.

Several esteemed individuals were present on this occasion, including Gyanendra Saxena, Sushil Chauhan, Nitin, Dinesh Saxena, Pramod Johri, Naresh Sharma, Ashish, Hrithik, Neeraj, Manveer, Jogendra, Rajendra, Sagar Singh, Sheel Vardhan, Sahnsar Pal, Brahma Dutt, and A.K. Saxena.

3. World Hindi Day Program – Meerut Chapter

Meerut, 9th January: On the eve of World Hindi Day, INTACH, Meerut Chapter organized a grand event at Anandam Ashram Auditorium at 4:00 PM. The program commenced with the traditional lighting of the lamp before the image of Goddess Saraswati by senior members Lt. Colonel A.D. Tyagi and K.P. Pradhan. The event began with insightful lectures by Akshat Johri, a Class 9 student, and Vansh Deep Tyagi, who spoke about the significance and vast scope of the Hindi language, as well as the deep connection between language and emotions. Thereafter, an engaging poetry session took place, featuring remarkable recitations by poets Komal Chauhan, Divyansh, Nemish Pandey, Rajni Tomar, Nitish Ji, Uttam Jat, Saroj Ji, Sanjay Jain, and Patel Ji. Each poet presented their compositions, enriching the atmosphere with their literary expressions. The program was presided over by Dr. R.K. Bhatnagar, Convener of INTACH, Meerut Chapter, who blessed the participants with his words of encouragement. To honor their contributions, all participants were presented with mementoes by INTACH. Shri A.K. Johri, Co-Convener efficiently conducted the proceedings of the event. The gathering was graced by the presence of several distinguished attendees, including Dinesh Saxena, Pramod Johri, Shyam Bihari, Amarpal, Suresh Saxena, Sushil, Naresh Sharma, Rakesh Sharma, Rekha Johri, Dinesh Sharan, Shakeel Saifi, Ashok Kumar, and Surendra Singh.

4. Seminar on the History of Meerut – Meerut Chapter

Meerut, 31st January– INTACH Meerut Chapter in collaboration with the Department of History at Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut, organized a seminar titled "Virasat: A Discussion on the History of Meerut." The session was chaired by Dr. R.K. Bhatnagar, Retired Divisional Commissioner and Convener, INTACH Meerut Chapter.

Eminent historians, including Professor Anees, K.K. Sharma (Head of the History Department), and A.K. Gandhi, were welcomed. They, along with Musa Munir Khan, Dr. Manisha Tyagi, Ruhela Ji, and Rajneesh Tyagi Ji, shared insights into historical events and the process of writing history. Dr. R.K. Bhatnagar also provided valuable historical information. Senior INTACH member M.S. Jain delivered the vote of thanks at the conclusion of the seminar. The event was moderated by A.K. Johri, Co-Convener. After the session, attendees visited the university's History Department Museum.

5. Blood Donation Camp – Meerut Chapter

Meerut, 12th February– INTACH Heritage, Meerut Chapter, organized a blood donation camp at Bajaj Hindustan Limited, Sugar Mill, Kinauni, District Meerut. The initiative was led by INTACH member and coordinator K.P. Singh. A total of 40 units of blood were collected and deposited at the blood unit of Pandit Pyare Lal Sharma Government Hospital. The event was planned and executed by A.K. Johri, Co-Convener, with blessings from Dr. R.K. Bhatnagar, Convener.

6. Birth Anniversary of Dr. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar

Meerut, 21st February– In a joint initiative by the All India Kayastha Mahasabha and INTACH Meerut Chapter, a program commemorating the birth anniversary of visionary scientist Dr. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar was held at Anandam Ashram Auditorium, Shraddhapuri, Kankar Kheda, Meerut. The event commenced with the garlanding of Dr. Bhatnagar's portrait, followed by a prayer dedicated to Goddess Saraswati. Dr. R.K. Bhatnagar, retired IAS officer and Convener of the Meerut Chapter, inaugurated the program by lighting the ceremonial lamp. Co-Convener A.K. Johri highlighted Dr. Bhatnagar's life and contributions. Born in 1894 in Shahpura (now in Pakistan), he pursued postgraduate studies in India before moving to England for a research fellowship. Known as the Father of India's Research Laboratories, he established 12 national laboratories. Following his passing in 1955, CSIR introduced an award in his honor.

The event saw the participation of several distinguished guests, including Dr. R.K. Bhatnagar, A.K. Johri, Krishna Avtar Bhatnagar, Vishal Bhatnagar, Nripendra Bhatnagar, Dr. Tejbhan Saxena, Mukesh Kumar Saxena, Manish Bhatnagar, Sachin Bhatnagar, E.A. Saxena, Mrs. Rekha Johri, Harish Bhatnagar, Vivek Bhatnagar, Puneet Bhatnagar, Shyam Bihari, Dinesh Saxena, Suresh Saxena, Pramod Johri, and Dharmesh Srivastava.



World Hindi Day Program – Meerut Chapter



Birth Anniversary of Dr. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar – Meerut Chapter

Prayagraj

1. Excursion heritage visit to Sujawan Dev Temple on 10th November'24

On 10th November 2024, members of the INTACH Prayagraj Chapter, led by its convener Shri Shambhu Chopra, embarked on a boat ride to the historic Sujawan Dev Temple located in Bhita. This excursion was part of our ongoing efforts to explore and promote the rich cultural heritage of Prayagraj. The effort was also to see if any of the ancient and old temples in and around Prayagraj were in good condition or whether they required any restoration work. The Tourist Department of Uttar Pradesh has arranged two catamarans for visits to this important pilgrimage site which has great religious importance apart from its historical and heritage importance.

Sujawan Dev Temple is the site where Lord Ram established a Shivling after crossing the River Yamuna during his period in exile, so it has both heritage value and also religious sentiments attached to it. It is built on a pillar of heavy rocks in the river Yamuna and during the monsoon season, the temple appears to be right in the middle of the river Yamuna giving it a special importance and pilgrims from all over the State and elsewhere visit it during the shrawan and kartik months.

The journey commenced early in the morning, with members gathering at the Triveni Darshan Hotel. As we navigated the tranquil waters, several heritage sites came into view, such as the Fort, Old Jetty, Old Jamuna Bridge, and Baluahat Baradari. This was followed by the pristine riverside where various bird species could be spotted. The ride provided an excellent opportunity for members to bond and discuss initiatives aimed at preserving our local heritage.

Upon arrival at the temple site, we were greeted by the temple's pujari, who guided us to the temple, which is built atop a heap of stones in the center of the river course, narrating its history along the way, and its religious and spiritual significance.

After the Puja and Prasad, we boarded our catamaran boat for the return journey, which was filled with reflective discussions on the importance of such excursions particularly from the heritage perspective.

The overall experience was enriching and very well arranged by our project coordinator, Mr. Nilesh Narayan under the able guidance and planning of the Chapter's Convener Sri Shambhu Chopra.



Excursion Heritage visit to Sujawan Dev Temple - Prayagraj Chapter

2. The write-up for publication in Virasat magazine on behalf of Allahabad Chapter of Intach.

" Prayagraj's Spiritual Legacy Celebrated with English Edition Book Launch Prayagraj, January 19th, 2025 –

The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) Prayagraj Chapter celebrated a significant milestone today with the launch of the English edition of its project, " The Religious and Spiritual Heritage of Prayagraj." The event was held at El-Chico Bakery and Restaurant and attended by distinguished guests, scholars, and heritage enthusiasts and the members of INTACH.

This project by INTACH aims to document and promote the profound religious and cultural heritage of Prayagraj, a city globally recognized for its spiritual significance. With the ongoing Mahakumbh 2025, a once-in-144-years spiritual congregation that attracted millions of pilgrims, this book serves as a timely resource to understand and appreciate the city's unique legacy. The English edition, translated by Ms. Urvashi Bhargava, an INTACH member currently based in Canada, seeks to bring Prayagraj's heritage to an international audience.

Mrs. Nandita Bhargava, Ms. Urvashi Bhargava's mother, represented her at the event. The original Hindi version, "Prayagraj ki Dharmik aur Aadhyatmik Virasat", authored by Mr. Anupam Parihar, Co-Convener of the INTACH Prayagraj Chapter, was released on March 6th, 2023, and had received widespread acclaim. The Honorable Mr. Justice Neeraj Tiwari, presided over the event and officially released the English edition.

In his remarks, Justice Tiwari commended INTACH for its dedicated efforts in preserving and promoting Indian art and cultural heritage. He highlighted the significance of Prayagraj as a spiritual hub, especially in the context of Mahakumbh 2025, which provides a global stage to showcase the city's rich traditions and historic landmarks. The event was also graced by the presence of former Allahabad High Court Judge, Justice Rajes Kumar, who shared his thoughts on the importance of preservation of religious sites in Prayagraj. Mr. Shambhu Chopra, Convener, conducted the evening's program and informed the audience about Intach's range of activities in Prayagraj.

The book offers a comprehensive exploration of Prayagraj's spiritual and cultural identity, covering its historical evolution, traditions, and the significance of its religious landmarks. It underscores INTACH's commitment to conserving India's heritage and educating future generations about the deep-rooted cultural ethos of Prayagraj. The project was led by Mr. Shambhu Chopra, Convener of the INTACH Prayagraj Chapter. The Prayagraj Chapter also acknowledged the invaluable guidance, support, and blessings of Maj Gen L.K. Gupta (Retd.), Chairman of INTACH India, whose leadership continues to inspire such meaningful projects, Maj.General Gupta had also lauded the Prayagraj Chapter for their outstanding contribution to heritage conservation and documentation. The event concluded with a vote of thanks, recognizing the contributions of INTACH members, authors, translators, and guests who made the project and its launch a resounding success. Both the Hindi and English versions of the book are expected to serve as essential resources for scholars, devotees, and tourists alike, further cementing Prayagraj's position as a spiritual epicenter. They would be on sale at the Mahakumbh Mela at the INTACH stall.



Prayagraj's Spiritual Legacy Celebrated with English Edition Book Launch Prayagraj - Prayagraj Chapter

Varanasi

1. World Heritage Week organised by INTACH Varanasi Chapter was inaugurated on November 19, 2024 by organising an exhibition of rare photographs by eminent photo artist and mentor Shri Binay Rawal (an INTACH Life member too) and Shri Balram Yadav (whose photos were used by INTACH in their Man Mahal Virtual museum). Paintings based on Heritage of Banaras prepared by eminent artist Anil Sharma were also exhibited. INTACH institutional member Sunbeam School Lahartara hosted the exhibition.

Ashok Kapoor Convener Varanasi Chapter, Ms Parveen Quaiser Principal of School, Mr Nirmal Joshi and Anil Keshari Addl Co Convener INTACH Varanasi, Anil Sharma and Binay Rawal inaugurated the exhibition by first cutting the ribbon and then by offering lamps to Tulsi Plant.

Large number of school students and some INTACH members were present.

Binay Rawal and Balram Yadav explained about Ramlila of Kashi to students while Anil Sharma ji explained about importance of those Heritage sites which are depicted in his paintings. The event was efficiently curated and managed by Saurabh Chakraborty. Mr Abhijit Agrawal Mr Jitendra Nagar and some more INTACH members were present.



World Heritage Week – Varanasi Chapter

2. Heritage Walk to Jaunpur

INTACH, Varanasi chapter organized a heritage walk to the historical sites at Jaunpur , 60km from Varanasi on Sunday, 10th November, 2024. The heritage walk was planned under the guidance of Mr. Ashok Kapoor, Convener, INTACH, Varanasi chapter. Twenty- seven NTACH members joined for this walk.

The sites covered were Shahi Quila , Shahi pul and the Atala mosque.

The imposing Old shahi fort or Jaunpur fort, was built during the reign of Firoz Shah Tughlaq in the fourteenth century. It is built of local Chunar stone and was built for defence purposes. The army stayed at the grounds which were barracks. The fort was built strategically midway, between Calcutta in the east and Delhi to the west. The fort had subsequently been taken over by the Mughals under Akbar. Extensions of an outer wall was added by the Mughals. It is situated along the Gomti river, that flows towards lucknow. There is an escape route that that opens out to the river, incase of enemy attack. The entrance gate still has remnants of the beautiful glazed tiles, made with Persian tiles. Lapis lazuli colours is seen here, as is seen even in Samarkand. We were pointed out the center stone of the gateway, called gurj which is like a keystone. Lakhoria bricks have been used for the kangura. It has been documented that Ibrahim Lodhi had destroyed the fort. Archaeological Survey of India has been active in restoring the beautiful fort.

The fort mainly has two structures of interest. The Shahi Hammam, designed in the Turkish Hammam style, built during the reign of the Mughals and the mosque built by Ibrahim naib Barbak, brother of Firoz shah Tughlaq, in 1376.

For the Hammam, cold water and hot water was directed from the well. There is an entrance room where water was collected. The Dome of the hammam is similar to what we see in Iran and turkey. It is a beautiful structure with domes. The interior is well lit and well ventilated with beautiful and artistic niches throughout. Changing rooms were thoughtfully made and the hammam was used by men and women.

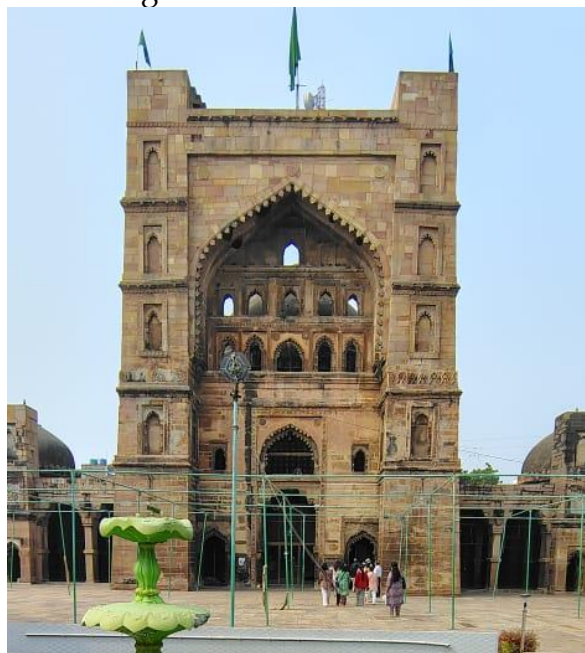
The mosque inside the fort is a large pillared structure with pillars reused from the 11th and 12th centuries.

Our next stop was to the Atala masjid. It has three gates. It is a very well preserved beautiful masjid. There is a well in property. The mosque too was built during Firoz shah tughlaq's reign.

We further continued to the shahi pul- a bridge that still exists from the times of the Tughlaq dynasty. It is built over the river, Gomti and is a beautiful, artistic, wide bridge that is still in use today.

Jaunpur has many more historic structures, dating back to the Tughlaq dynasty, who had established the town of Jaunpur.

Thereafter, we proceeded to a local restaurant for breakfast. This was certainly a very interesting historic walk.



Heritage Walk to Jaunpur – Varanasi Chapter

3. As part of World Heritage Week, INTACH Varanasi Chapter in collaboration with Bharat Kala Bhawan Museum BHU organised 3 days workshop for school students. Students from 5 schools participated. The seats were limited so we closed the registration 2 days before.

First day was orientation by experts and then exploration by taking them around to all galleries. Students were divided into 4 groups and then next day Asst curators took charge of each group and were assigned specific galleries. Students were trained to work as curator. Each group was trained for 2 hours each

The last day was assigned for presentation by students after they themselves set up the exhibits. It was a very educative workshop where students enjoyed while learning. Mr Ashok Kapoor Convener, Mr Nalin Gulati, Co Convener, Mr Nirmal Joshi, Addl. Co Convener, Mr Anil Keshari, Addl Co Convener and Dr Ms Jasmininder Kaur, Life Member were present on different days.

Ms Jawa Madhur of Museum and Ms Aditi Gulati of INTACH were coordinators. Certificates were given to all participants on concluding day. This was a very unique concept where students learnt the museum working while going around.



World Heritage Week, INTACH Varanasi Chapter in collaboration with Bharat Kala Bhawan Museum BHU – Varanasi Chapter

4. INTACH Varanasi, in collaboration with Little Flower House, Nagwa, organized an enlightening session on Cultural Entrepreneurship on 11 December 2024, delivered by the renowned author Ms. Anuradha Goyal. With an impressive portfolio of approximately 18 books, numerous newspaper articles, and lectures delivered on various esteemed platforms, Ms. Goyal captivated the audience with her deep insights into leveraging culture as a business opportunity.

She highlighted how the interplay of scarcity, waste, and need can spark innovative business ideas. Her discussion also delved into several successful startups like Phool, that have drawn inspiration from cultural roots.

The session commenced with the ceremonial lamp lighting, followed by an engaging lecture by Ms. Goyal. The event concluded with an open discussion, fostering thought-provoking interactions among participants.

The gathering was graced by distinguished guests, including Shri Ashok Kapoor, Convener, INTACH Varanasi; Shri Nalin Gulati, Co-Convener; Shri Anil Kesari, Additional Co-Convener; and approximately 30 INTACH and non-INTACH members.

Dr. Anuradha Raturi eloquently anchored the session, adding a touch of finesse to the proceedings, while Shri Neeraj Khanna and CA Aditi Gulati meticulously planned and seamlessly organised the event.



Session on Cultural Entrepreneurship delivered by the renowned author Ms. Anuradha Goyal – Varanasi Chapter

5. On December 19th, 2024, A meeting of INTACH members was organized at INTACH Cultural Centre, Peshwa Haveli Raja Ghat for an introduction and dialogue about newly established cultural center. Chapter Convener Ashok Kapoor gave a brief introduction of Peshwa Haveli. Prof Pradosh Mishra shed light on the historical and architectural significance of the space and named it a "Heritage Collective". Then members exchanged ideas about future possibilities, activities and sustainability of the center. Everyone agreed unanimously that it is a beautiful space for intellectual and artistic activities such as Lectures, workshops, exhibitions, concerts, etc. Additional Co-conveners of INTACH Varanasi Nirmal Joshi and Anil Keshri were also present in the meeting along with other senior members of INTACH Varanasi. Many meaningful suggestions were given for sustainability.



Meeting of INTACH Varanasi members – Varanasi Chapter

6. 'Virasat Darshan' Lecture Series program organized by INTACH Varanasi chapter. Tourism fraternity of Kashi got to know the life philosophy of Sant Kabir.

'Virasat Darshan' Lecture Series program was organized in the Banquet Hall of Urban Food Court located in Cantonment area of Varanasi, in which the cultural ambassadors of Kashi got to know the life of Sant Kabir closely from the words of Umesh Kabir, who lives in Kabir Chaura Math and has made Kabir's words famous in India as well as London. All the prominent people associated with the tourism industry were present in the program. The said lecture series which is organized every two months, was organized by Indian National Trust for Culture and Heritage, (INTACH), in collaboration with TGA, IITFA, TGFI, and ATGA etc. In which, apart from INTACH members, people associated with the tourism profession and interested in heritage conservation participated enthusiastically.

Under the leadership of Shri Ashok Kapoor, convener of INTACH Varanasi chapter, the presidents of the supporting organizations welcomed the keynote speaker with bouquet and Angavastram. The program was conducted by the coordinator of the Guide Association Jainendra Rai who is also INTACH Life member. Umesh Kabir Ji emphasized in his speech that no God or deity or saint should be compared with anyone. One should try to understand them in their own language, from their own perspective and with their own feelings. Kabir is present inside all of us, we just need to recognize ourselves. The vote of thanks was given by TGA President Akhilesh Kumar.

The main guests in the program were Tourist Guide Association Secretary Nilesch Sinha, Vice President Anish Jha, Joint Secretary Mumtaz Ali, ITFA State President Vikram Mehrotra, ATGA President Rajeshwar Singh, Ashish Singh, Ankit Singh Maurya, Raju Bhardwaj, TGA Patron Ashok Verma and senior people from Tourism fraternity were present.



'Virasat Darshan' Lecture Series program organized by INTACH Varanasi chapter – Varanasi Chapter

7. INTACH Varanasi organised an evening event at newly established Cultural center at Peshwa Haveli Rajaghat. Since the place has been received back by INTACH after 32 years, it was decided to organise Sacred Vedic Chanting. Shanti Paath and Ganesh Puja was organised on December 29. Three renowned priests chanted mantras for 30 minutes. Later, we requested members who were present to see all floors of Haveli. Since the place originally belonged to Peshwas, it was decided to organise authentic and traditional Maharashtrian Cuisine for dinner on payment basis.

After a short get together it was decided to hold regular Cultural programmes and INTACH Varanasi activities on regular basis.

8. Sasaram Heritage walk.

Heritage walk of Sasaram organised on 22nd December 2025 by Varanasi Chapter for members and their family.

This walk was initiated and encouraged by Shri Anuraag Chandra and executed by Ashok Kapoor Convener.

Akhilesh Kumar an expert of the field briefed the group along with Shri Rakesh Pathak. All the participants assembled at Raj ghat near Tomb of Lal Khan which was our meeting point. Then they drove 125 KM to Sasaram in 6 cars on Grand Trunk road which was built by Sher Shah Suri in 16th century to run smooth trade and commerce in the country. On the way near Kudra we stopped at the road side Dhaba and had tea and snacks.

Sasaram is the administrative headquarters of Rohtas district. The city served as the capital of the Sur dynasty during Sher Shah Suri's rule over India in the 16th Century and was the resident place, sub capital of epic monarch Sahastrabaho. During Vedic age Sasaram was a part of the ancient Kashi kingdom. Sasaram mane derived from Sahastrarama, meaning as thousands grove.

Sasaram was once named Shah Sarai (place of king) as it is birthplace of the Afghan king Sher Sah Suri who ruled over Delhi much of northern India, present day Pakistan and eastern Afghanistan for five years as Sur Empire after defeating the Mughal Emperor Humayun.

Many of the Sher Shah Suri governmental practices were adopted by Mughal and later by the British Raj including taxation, administration and bulging of paved road from Kabul to Bengal.

Sasaram is also famous for an inscription by emperor Ashoka situated in a small cave of Kaimur hill near Chandan Shahid.

On arrival of Sasaram the group visited and admired Tomb of Sher Shah Suri. Next group walk to the tomb of Hasan Shah Suri.

Tomb of Sher Shah Suri is a mausoleum located in Sasaram, it was completed in August 1545 about three months after his death. It is situated on a square plinth in the middle of an artificial lake. Tomb made out of sand stone.

The tomb was commissioned by Sher Shah during his lifetime. It is an example of Indo Islamic architecture.

The tomb of Hasan Shah Suri also commissioned by Sher Shah and completed before his tomb is considered as a prototype of this tomb.

After visiting both tombs, the group had lunch on the outskirts of Sasaram and drove back to Varanasi.



Sasaram Heritage walk – Varanasi Chapter

9. INTACH Foundation Day 2025 Celebrated with Enthusiasm at Little Flower House, Kakarmatta, an INTACH institutional member.

The INTACH's 40th Foundation Day 2025 was celebrated with great zeal at Little Flower House, Kakarmatta, bringing together 14 participating schools and 26 participants. The highlight of the event was an interschool teachers' competition on the topic "Kumbh ki Virasat: Adikal se Vartman tak – Ek Sinhavalokan" (The Legacy of Kumbh: A Retrospective from Ancient to Modern Times).

The program commenced with the ceremonial lamp lighting by distinguished guests, including Mr. Ashok Kapoor, Convener, INTACH Varanasi; Mr. Nirmal Joshi, Additional Co-Convener, INTACH Varanasi; Dr. Swati Pandey; and Ms. Mridula Joshi, who also served as the judges for the competition. The event was hosted by Ms. Aditi Gulati, a Life Member of INTACH, and coordinated by Ms. Nitika Mishra.

The competition saw enthusiastic participation, with teams presenting diverse perspectives on the religious, scientific, social, and economic significance of Kumbh. Little Flower House, Kakarmatta secured the first position, while Sunbeam Annapurna claimed the second prize. The event successfully highlighted the rich heritage and enduring legacy of the Kumbh Mela.



Celebrated INTACH's 40th Foundation Day 2025 – Varanasi Chapter

10. We organised Cultural Evening and awareness activity at INTACH CULTURAL CENTER PESHWA HAVELI RAJAGHAT. Members were invited to see the place, know in detail about the Peshwa Haveli and INTACH. Briefing was done by Anurag Chandra, Anil Keshari and Ashok Kapoor. Members were taken around to see. Thereafter a Sitar recital was arranged.

Mr Abhijit Agrawal provided working staff to help in refreshments. Refreshments were arranged on payment basis.

Such activities are being arranged by INTACH Varanasi Chapter to create awareness about the heritage and this property. We are aiming towards self sustainability and revenue growth from the property. These are examples and show as a model.



Cultural Evening and Awareness Activity at INTACH CULTURAL CENTER PESHWA HAVELI RAJAGHAT – Varanasi Chapter

11. INTACH VARANASI Chapter organised visits to two famous and oldest Akhadas on Sunday February 16. In view of ongoing Kumbh, Akhadas are in prominence though not much known is about inside workings and it's real purpose.

So it was decided to apprise the members about Akhadas by visiting their local headquarters. The local centers are too big and situated at Shivala Ghat. Fortunately many senior Mahants were in Banaras after their stay at Kumbh. So Ashok Kapoor Convener Varanasi Chapter and Anurag Chandra Addl Co Convener conceptualized this programme which was assisted and executed by Anil Keshari Addl Co Convener. It was a rare opportunity for lady members and spouses as Mahants informed that ladies are not normally allowed. But looking to importance of INTACH and its aim, they welcomed us.

Participants first visited Maha Nirvani Akhada. First impression was a beautiful location, large open space with temples and living quarters where several sadhus are staying. Place was pristinely clean. We saw morning Aarti being performed when we reached there. Sadhus were performing Aarti under able supervision of Mahant ji. Thereafter we were asked to sit down in front of senior Mahant ji who very patiently explained the workings of Akhara and answered many queries. Participants were very curious to know about hierarchy and workings.

Mahant ji also explained that Akhada is an organisation formed for the protection and dissemination of Sanatana dharma through knowledge and weapons both. GYAAN and SHASHTRA. Akharas existed since the time of Adi Shankaracharya, to protect Hindus from onslaught of various invaders, be Muslim invaders or Moghuls. They fought with Britishers too. The Sadhus are taught even to fight using weapons.

There were 4 main Akharas but later became 7 and finally 13 now.

Though many Sadhus are Nagas but they covered themselves as they live in society. Sadhus worship Shiva and Shakti. Akharas do not practice Aghori or black magic. The Akharas had enough wealth from past times and they run the place smoothly.

Then participants moved to nearby Niranjani Akhara. This also has beautiful settings and run on similar principles. They had beautiful Devi and Shiva temples within the complex. Their all India Head was fortunately there with other senior mahants from other centers of the country. They blessed our members. We met a Naga Sadhu there.

The next we visited Chet Singh Fort compound which belongs to erstwhile king of Banaras. It has a strategic advantage for River ways but is very poorly maintained.

Our wonderful and unique visit ended with an absolutely sumptuous breakfast at Diamond Hotel.

This entire trip and programme has been one of the most memorable for INTACH VARANASI members.



Visits to famous and oldest Akhadas of ongoing Kumbh – Varanasi Chapter

12. The Annual Meet of INTACH Varanasi Chapter 'Vasantiki' was successfully held on Sunday, March 2, 2025, at Bhakti Bhawan, Rathyatra, with an enthusiastic gathering of members and guests. The evening commenced with a warm welcome and fellowship over Thandai, followed by a welcome address and briefing by the Convener. Akhilesh Kumar Ji delivered an insightful talk on Tourism and INTACH Varanasi, highlighting the city's cultural heritage. Mr. Ashok Kapoor, Convener, supported by CA Aditi Gulati, presented a PPT showcasing the chapter's activities and initiatives. The event was further enriched by a soulful light classical music performance by Shri Mohit Sahani, creating a captivating ambiance. Members then shared their experiences, reflecting on their contributions and the impact of INTACH's work in Varanasi. The evening concluded with a vote of thanks, followed by refreshments, fostering camaraderie and discussions on future endeavors. The meet reaffirmed the commitment of the Varanasi Chapter towards heritage conservation and cultural promotion.

13. On February 27th, INTACH Varanasi Chapter organised a "Raga Meditation" program in INTACH cultural centre, Raja Ghat. Renowned Danish Saxophone player, Lars Møller presented Indian Ragas on Saxophone in a meditative morning. He explained about the origin of the instrument and impact of Shehnai on Saxophone. He started this session with an elaborated alaap in Raga Bhairav, followed by alaap in Raga Todi. He concluded the session with Raga Bhairavi.

Convener Ashok Kapoor felicitated and thanked Mr. Møller. This session was curated by Abhijit Agrawal. Many members of the chapter participated in the session.

13. Obituary

Mr Madan Kushwaha, Life Member and a very senior Govt of India approved National Level Tourist Guide passed away in February, 2025. He was an Archaeologist and Educationist, used to help the Chapter in Heritage Walk programme. He attended Capacity building workshop in the year 2024 and was appreciated by resource persons for his knowledge. Chapter lost a young dynamic and knowledgeable member.



Mr Madan Kushwaha

14. Some Senior members visited Peshwa Haveli Rajaghat on Sunday , March 23,.2025 in the morning specially to see Exhibition on Dwadash Madhav. Mr Anurag Chandra and Mr Anil Keshari Addl Co Conveners briefed the members about facilities at Cultural Center. Ashok Kapoor Convener briefed about purpose of bringing Dwadash Madhav exhibition to Varanasi.



Visit at Peshwa Haveli Rajaghat – Varanasi Chapter

West Bengal Hooghly

On 24.12.2024 INTACH Hooghly Chapter organized a one-day tour on the banks of the Hooghly River for around fifty students and teachers from Gurudas College, Kolkata. They experienced the indigenous heritage of the Hooghly district along with its European connections.

The tour covered notable places like Bandel Church, Hooghly Imambara, Vande-Mataram Bhavan, Chandernagore Strand etc. that represent the amalgamation of the cultures of the local people and the foreign settlers.

The tour, on behalf of INTACH Hooghly Chapter, was coordinated by Dr. Antara Mukherjee and guided by Mr. Souptik Choudhury.



A one-day tour on the banks of the Hooghly River – Hooghly Chapter

On the 128th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, INTACH Hooghly Chapter organised a district level poster making competition at Chandernagore Banga Vidyalaya, Chandernagore. More than thirty students from various schools in the Hooghly district participated in the competition. The theme of the competition was 'Celebrating India', and participants depicted local traditions, festivals, customs, and rituals in their posters, accompanied by short write-ups encapsulating the messages they aimed to convey.



District Level Poster Making Competition – Hooghly Chapter

On a fine winter morning on January 28, 2025, students and teachers from Dumdum Motijheel College, Kolkata embarked on an educational tour to Chandernagore, organised by INTACH Hooghly Chapter.

The students gained insight into the significance of Chandernagore as an ancient Bengali trade point, a former French settlement, and notably, a hub of revolutionary activities during the British rule in India. The tour encompassed several notable sites, including the Gala Kuthi, Prabartak Ashram, the hiding place of Shri Aurobindo, Borai Chandi temple, French Cemetery, Nandadulal Temple, Barasat Gate, Gondal para, French Museum, and the Strand.

The tour was coordinated by Dr. Antara Mukherjee and guided by Mr. Souptik Choudhury.

Kolkata

1. INTACH NATIONAL HERITAGE QUIZ 2024 (City Level)

INTACH NATIONAL HERITAGE QUIZ 2024 was organised by INTACH Calcutta Regional Chapter at Sri Sri Academy, Kolkata on 20th September, 2024.

In this competition 46 students from 6 different schools of Kolkata (Schools' names - Sri Sri Academy, Shri Shikshayatan School, Apeejay School- Salt Lake, Birla High School, Heritage High School and Jyotirmoyee Public School) took place.

Inauguration was done with a welcome address by Ms. Reeta Dasgupta of Sri Sri Academy and the quiz competition was host by the quiz masters Ms. Smita Mehta and Dr. Sutapa Joti, members of INTACH, Calcutta Chapter over 5 rounds.

The winners were bestow with the certificates and gifts by Vice principal of Sri Sri Academy.



INTACH National Heritage Quiz 2024 - Kolkata Chapter

2. CULINARY HERITAGE RECOGNITION

Calcutta Regional Chapter was cordially invited to the INTACH Heritage Culinary Recognition Blue Plaque unveiling at Aminia Restaurant, Esplanade, Kolkata on 22 Oct, 2024. Mr. G.M. Kapur, Convener and member Siddharth Sarkar along with the iconic Mughlai eatery owners and partners. It established in 1929.



INTACH Heritage Culinary Recognition Blue Plaque unveiling at Aminia Restaurant - Kolkata Chapter

3. CULINARY HERITAGE RECOGNITION

Unveiling of the INTACH Heritage Culinary Recognition Blue Plaque at Balwant Singh Dhaba on Mon, 21st Oct. Intach Calcutta Chapter was warmly invited. Convener Mr. Gour Mohan Kapur, members Sid Sarkar and Smita Mehta with the family/ owners of the iconic dhaba eatery of Kolkata. It established in 1926.



INTACH Heritage Culinary Recognition Blue Plaque at Balwant Singh Dhaba - Kolkata Chapter

4. PRESENTATION BY SEA EXPLORERS INSTITUTE, OUTRAM GHAT, KOLKATA 05.10.2024

PRESENTATION BY SEA EXPLORERS INSTITUTE

Dr Sudeshna Chatterjee secretary general of institute spoke about their history of the institute details along with very interesting film on the adventurous and gripping voyage of Pinaki Chatterjee and Lt Cdr Duke from Kolkata to the Andaman Islands.

She also made a presentation on the proposed maritime heritage of Bengal in the form of a "Boat Show" which they wish to hold near the Prinsep Ghat in the year-end for which they invited INTACH to partner.



Presentation by Sea Explorers Institute, Outram Ghat, Kolkata - Kolkata Chapter

5. INTACH NATIONAL HERITAGE QUIZ 2024 (State Level)

INTACH NATIONAL HERITAGE QUIZ 2024 was organised by INTACH Calcutta Regional Chapter Kolkata on 04th November, 2024.

The competition was held between 8 students, winners of 4 different Chapters (Darjeeling, Santiniketan, Murshidabad and Kolkata) of West Bengal.

Inauguration was done with a welcome address by Mr. G. M. Kapur (Convener) and Ms. Kanchana Mukhopadhyay (Co. Convener). The quiz competition was host by the quiz masters Ms. Smita Mehta and Dr. Sutapa Joti, members of INTACH, Calcutta Chapter.

The winners were bestowing with certificates and gifts.



INTACH National Heritage Quiz 2024 - Kolkata Chapter

6. A BOAT SHOW -20.12.2024

"ANANDA" A Boat Show to Rediscover the River and its Vessels was organised by Sea Explorers' Institute in collaboration with INTACH Calcutta Chapter on 20 Dec, 2024 at Princep Ghat-1

7. POSTER & ESSAY MAKING COMPETITION- "CELEBRATING INDIA"10.01.2025

POSTER & ESSAY MAKING COMPETITION- "CELEBRATING INDIA"

was held in Apeejay School Park Street on 10th January, 2025. 40 nos. students of 7 schools were participated.

8. MAMSAUDANAM TO ZER BIRIYAN =29.12.2024

Calcutta Rowing Club in association with INTACH organised "Mamsaudanam to Zer Biriyan: In Search of The Delectable Heritage of Biriyani" by culinary researcher, Mr. Nilanjan Hajra. A talk on the culinary journey through time which bloomed into a dish named Biryani in India.

The journey concluded with a delectable fare of Biryani served by BiryaniShk at Calcutta Rowing Club on Sunday, 29 Dec, 2024.

9. AHUJA ART MUSEUM=24.01.2025

A step towards strengthening harmony, INTACH West Bengal and Calcutta Regional Chapters invited Mr. Enrico De Barbieri (the great nephew of Angelo Firpo) to become an esteemed friend of INTACH. The event included a spellbinding presentation on Italian World Heritage by Mr. Daniele Panfilo, Deputy Consul General of Italy on Friday, 24th Jan at the Ahuja Museum for Arts on Elgin Road.

10. 'CALCUTTA MEMORABILIA' AN EXHIBITION OF COLLECTORS' -VICTORIA MEMORIAL HALL =24.01.25

Inauguration of 'Calcutta Memorabilia' an exhibition of collectors' items from the era gone by... presented by Victoria Memorial Hall in collaboration with INTACH Calcutta Chapter.

The memorabilia will be on display at the Durbar Hall, VMH daily till 09 Feb 2025, visit during the museum timings.

11. Filmit=Lakshmipat SA-31.1.25

As a part of HECS' Filmit Project the activities INTACH Kolkata Chapter was organised the FILMIT Festival, 2025 at at Lakshmipat Singhanian Academy on 31st January, 2025.

12. Calcutta Cricket and Football Club - Sunday 23rd Feb, 2025.

INTACH Blue Plaque for Heritage of Sports and Games presented to Calcutta Cricket and Football Club on Sunday 23rd Feb, 2025.



INTACH Blue Plaque for Heritage of Sports and Games presented to Calcutta Cricket and Football Club – Calcutta Chapter



"ANANDA" A Boat Show – Calcutta Chapter

INTACH Heritage Academy (IHA)

About INTACH Heritage Academy

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

A. TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

I. Conserving Built Heritage: Role of Cultural Values and Significance, Chitkara University, Punjab, 26-27 November 2024

INTACH Heritage Academy organized a two-day workshop, titled 'Conserving Built Heritage: Role of Cultural Values and Significance' in collaboration with School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), Chitkara University, Punjab. Chitkara University is an institutional member of INTACH and the workshop was organised for faculty members of the University along with being open for external participants. It was attended by 35 participants, including faculty members from architecture, art, design and engineering at Chitkara and an external participant who was a geographer and faculty member at Symbiosis Pune.

The resource persons for the workshop were Dr. Parul Munjal, Director, IHA; Ms. Annabel Lopez, independent architect and heritage management consultant; and the Principal, Dr. Harveen Bhandari and Dean, Academic Affairs, Dr. Kanika Bansal from SPA, Chitkara University.

Through the sessions conducted in the workshop, the participants were introduced to the history, architecture and identity of Chandigarh followed by a site visit to the Capitol Complex in Chandigarh. The methods of identifying, assessing significance and conserving built heritage were brought into focus through case studies and working sessions that helped the participants engage in conversations around values and sustainability of heritage. The importance of nature-culture connects and the relationship between intangible and built heritage were highlighted, along with the role of various stakeholders in identification and articulation of values.





Dr. Parul Munjal, Director, IHA, interacting with the participants



Dr. Harveen Bhandari discussing the history and planning of Chandigarh



Participants working in groups in the working session on Day 1



Ms. Annabel Lopez delivering a lecture on 'Assessing Significance and Outstanding Universal Values: Local to World Heritage'



Site visit to the Capitol Complex in Chandigarh

II. Modern Architecture Conservation in India, online and Ahmedabad, January-February 2025

In India and throughout the Indian subcontinent innovations in construction happened throughout the 20th century, but the post-Independence period from the 1950s to 1980s was a special moment, an era of finding an identity for new nations. Liberated from the constraints of the colonial period, new nations started to investigate their traditional roots alongside modernity as the architectural expression of the new era. Architects such as Le Corbusier, Louis I Kahn, Achyut Kanvinde, Joseph Allen Stein, Charles Correa, Ranjit Sabikhi, Anant Raje, Raj Rewal and BV Doshi, and engineers such as Mahendra Raj were instrumental in this process as they searched for a new identity in India and designed daring buildings demonstrating extraordinary talent and skills. This phenomenon is evident in other parts of South Asia as well, extending the scope of the discourse around modern architecture well beyond India.

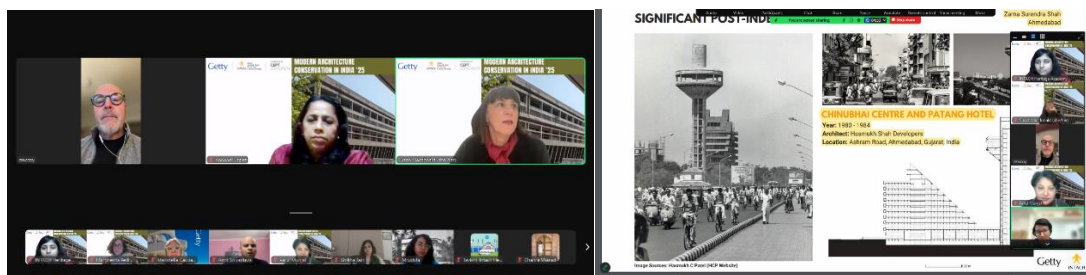
In the decades between the post-Independence period and the present day, appreciation for the legacy of this period has grown, but many of the buildings are still threatened by deterioration, demolition, insensitive alterations, or neglect. These places have aged, and some exhibit signs of deterioration and functional obsolescence. Maintaining and upgrading them requires specialized skills and technical knowledge. Over the last few decades, an extensive body of knowledge has been developed and successful conservation projects that can serve as models have been carried out. However, the conservation of Modern Architecture remains an area of practice that is unfamiliar to many practitioners.

To bridge this gap Getty, INTACH and CEPT worked together to develop a new course focused on the conservation of modern architecture, with a strong focus on case studies and hands-on exercises to impart practical and technical skills.

From January to February of 2025, the course Modern Architecture Conservation in India (MACI) convened 23 mid-career professionals to advance their knowledge around the challenges and opportunities for conserving modern architecture in the Indian Subcontinent. This inaugural hybrid course began with four weeks of online learning from 8th January to 5th February followed by one intensive week in-person program in Ahmedabad from 16th to 21st February. The course was produced by the Getty's Conserving Modern Architecture Initiative (CMAI) in partnership with the INTACH Heritage Academy and CEPT University as host and knowledge partner for the in-person component. Architect Annabel Lopez was hired by Getty as a specialist consultant and was engaged as advisor and core instructor throughout the course.

The application period was open from 9th September to 14th October 2024 and a total of 44 applications were received from across the world. Based on a predetermined selection framework, 25 applicants; 22 from the Indian Subcontinent and three from Southwest Asia were shortlisted, while 11 were placed on the waitlist.

Throughout the online phase, participants engaged in weekly modules that required watching pre-recorded video lectures, completing simple assignments and attending a live zoom session for Q&A and discussions with national and international experts in the field sharing their expertise (refer to the complete list at the end of the section). These sessions fostered insightful discussions, allowing participants to engage with experts and deepen their understanding of modern architectural conservation.



Snippets from the online sessions

The in-person component began on 16th February 2025 with a public event titled 'Modern Architecture as Heritage'. The program featured three talks offering a global perspective on the conservation of 20th-century heritage, an overview of the Mill Owners' patronage in Ahmedabad and the histories of key 20th-century buildings in the region. The event brought together esteemed experts; Ms. Susan Macdonald, Head of Buildings and Sites at Getty Conservation Institute, Mr. Kartikeya Sarabhai Director of Centre for Environment Education, and Prof. Miki Desai, Former Faculty at CEPT University, to share their expertise and participate in a panel discussion moderated by Prof. Kiran Joshi, Member, ICOMOS India & ISC20C.



Prof. Kiran Joshi, Mr. Kartikeya Sarabhai, Ms. Susan Macdonald and Prof. Miki Desai in the panel discussion

The in-person component in Ahmedabad was meticulously planned and executed. The teams from Getty, INTACH and CEPT created a rich program to deliver immersive learning experiences consisting of lectures, site visits, exercises and hands-on demonstrations, making the most out of the time spent physically together in Ahmedabad. Resource people ranged from CEPT academic staff, local and national practitioners and international experts from Getty.

A range of lectures provided participants with a deeper understanding of the modern built heritage of Ahmedabad and the recent efforts to conserve it, along with a step by step guidance on the conservation planning methodology. To support immediate application of these concepts, participants were divided into groups and tasked with developing a mini Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the Mill Owners' Association Building. This exercise allowed for in-depth discussions among participants, as well as valuable interactions with the facilitators; Susan Macdonald, Chandler McCoy, Dr. Parul Munjal and Margherita Pedroni. This collaborative process enabled participants to critically analyze conservation challenges, exchange perspectives and refine their approaches with expert guidance, fostering a deeper understanding of management strategies for modern heritage sites.

At the end of the course, the groups presented their work to the facilitators and the expert critiques of Prof. Jigna Desai and Prof. Rabindra J Vasavada.



Participants presenting their final mini CMPs in groups

The course included site visits to extraordinary modern buildings such as the Faculty of Architecture (FA) building at CEPT, the Mill Owners Association building, Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIM-A), Tagore Hall, National Institute of Design, Sangath, Sardar Patel Stadium and Villa Sarabhai, but also to the CEPT archives hosting the architectural collection. The site visits were selected for their didactic contribution, they were guided by experts involved in their protection or conservation or the site managers and provided invaluable insights on the conservation of these places.



Group picture at the CEPT Archives with Mr. Kartikey Shodhan, Ms. Saman Qureshi, the course participants and course facilitators



Nigar Shaikh giving a tour of the FA building and discussing the conservation efforts undertaken



Site visit to IIM-A with Ms. Shubhra Raje



Site visit to Mill Owners Association building



Participants engaging in hands-on concrete demonstration exercise at CEPT University's material lab



Site visit to Sardar Patel Stadium with Ms. Chirashree Thakkar and Mr. Dhruv Shah

A day was dedicated to the conservation of concrete, featuring lectures, hands-on exercises and demonstrations at the materials lab at CEPT University and a site visit at Patel Stadium where in-depth studies on concrete have been carried out. This provided participants with practical insights into material behavior, deterioration, assessment techniques and conservation approaches and allowed participants to engage directly with real-world scenarios, enhancing their understanding of the challenges involved and how to best address them.

All these activities and discussions, built on the concepts explored during the online component of the course allowed participants to network, connect among themselves, learn from each other and build a community of practice that will stay in touch in the future.



Participants and course organisers at the closing ceremony at CEPT University

Instructors:

Online	Sessions:	In-person	Sessions:
Dr. Amit Srivastava		Annabel Mascarenhas Lopez	
Annabel Mascarenhas Lopez		Catherine Desai	
Dr. Arman Singh		Chandler McCoy	
Dr. Arun Menon		Chirashree Thakkar	
Bhawna Dandona		Dr. Deepak Kamde	
Brinda Somaya Chandler McCoy		Jagdish Chauhan	
Gail Ostergren		Jayashree Bardhan Jigna Desai	
Dr. Gauri Bharat		Margherita Pedroni	
Justice Gautam Patel		Mehul Shah	
Indrani Sarkar		Minu Agarwal Nigar Shaikh	
Kiran Joshi		Dr. Parul Munjal	
Margherita Pedroni		Parul Parganiha	
Maristella Casciato		Rajan Rawal	
Matthew Bronski		Riyaz Tayyibji	
Dr. Parul Munjal		RJ Shah	
Parul Parganiha		Shreyank Khemalapure	
Nityaa Lakshmi Iyer		Shubhra Raje	
Rohit Raj Mehndiratta		Susan Macdonald	
Dr. Shikha Jain			
Susan Macdonald			

III. Assessing Values in Modern Heritage, INTACH, 24 February 2025

On 24th February 2025, INTACH Heritage Academy invited Ms. Susan Macdonald, Mr. Chandler McCoy and Ms. Margherita Pedroni from Getty Conservation Institute to conduct a workshop on modern architecture for the Architectural Heritage (AH) Division at INTACH. The session was attended by approximately 15 conservation architects and architects from the AH Division, along with three external conservation architects collaborating on various projects. The workshop focused on assessing the values for modern heritage through international case examples, the use of a thematic approach to identify heritage sites, criteria used for listing, and examples of community engagement and advocacy for the protection of modern heritage. This involved in-depth conversation on specific cases of modern buildings in India, ensuring meaningful dialogue and practical insights. The interactive format allowed for valuable exchanges, reinforcing the significance of modern heritage and the need for its protection and conservation in the Indian context.



Dr. Parul Munjal introducing instructors of the workshop; Chandler McCoy, Susan Macdonald and Margherita Pedroni from Getty Conservation Institute, Los Angeles

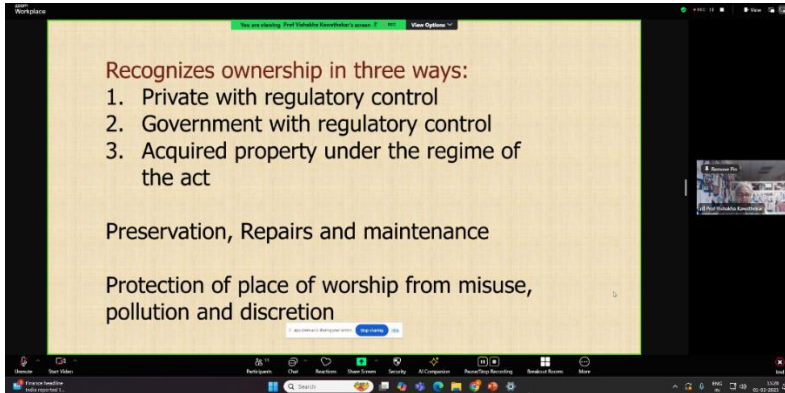


Discussion with participants of the workshop

IV. Built, Heritage and Law, online, 1 February 2025

INTACH Heritage Academy conducted a half day Capacity Building Workshop on using legal mechanisms to protect built heritage on the 1st February 2025. The course oriented participants to the legal mechanisms that exist through which they can protect built heritage in their chapters.

The half day workshop included a lecture discussing the importance of law for heritage protection and the mechanisms to do the same by Dr. Vishakha Kawathekar, Professor, School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal followed by a panel discussion elaborating on various case studies that included stakeholders of various aspects of heritage including Anitha Natarajan, Convener, INTACH Nagercoil Chapter; Sarath Chandra, Principal Conservation Architect, Heritage Matters, and Ashish Trambadia, Conservation Architect, Ahmedabad, moderated by Dr. Kawathekar. This was followed by a robust question and answer session where the audience members asked many insightful questions. 33 individuals attended the workshop.



Dr. Kawathekar during her lecture explaining the salient features of law and how it affects built heritage.



The panel discussion moderated by Dr. Kawathekar with Anitha Natarajan, Convener, INTACH Nagercoil Chapter, Sarath Chandra, Principal Conservation Architect, Heritage Matters and Ashish Trambadia, Conservation Architect, Ahmedabad and Dr. Parul Munjal, Director, IHA

V. Report Writing for Development Professionals, INTACH, 13 February 2025

INTACH Heritage Academy organised a half day Workshop on 'Report Writing for Development Professionals' on 13th February 2025 for staff and consultants across various divisions of INTACH. The resource person was Dr. Yaaminey Mubayi, Director, Writing Well, who has been a community engagement and education professional for the past 25 years. The workshop aimed to develop skills of writing successful reports in the participants and focused on identifying the appropriate type and content of a report, laying out the structure of the report, conducting research and utilizing data, and writing effective reports. The participants worked in groups to select a topic and generate a framework for a feasible report, by the end of the session. 25 individuals from across INTACH divisions attended the workshop.



Dr. Mubayi speaking to the participants during the workshop



The participants working in groups on their reports' frameworks

VI. Certificate in Basic Ornithology, INTACH and online, 7-9 February 2025

The three-day course, 'Certificate in Basic Ornithology' was organized by IHA in collaboration with the Ela Foundation, Pune with support from the Natural Heritage Division (NHD) of INTACH. It was held from Friday to Sunday, at the INTACH Multipurpose Hall in New Delhi, to enable participation from working professionals and full-time students. It was opened out in the online mode as well, to accommodate participants who were unable to travel physically for the course. The course was the first in the series of courses for natural heritage stewardship that IHA will be offering in collaboration with NHD.

The course attracted 36 in-person and online participants. The participants were from various professional fields like law, architecture, education, defense services, photography, forest department, etc. and saw student participation as well. This diversity highlights the growing interest in avian science and environmental stewardship. It was designed to sensitize participants through interactive multimedia talks on diverse subjects, including the history of ornithology, bird identification, adaptation for flight, migration, breeding, feeding habits, ecological roles, cultural aspects, bird photography, avian diseases and conservation challenges.

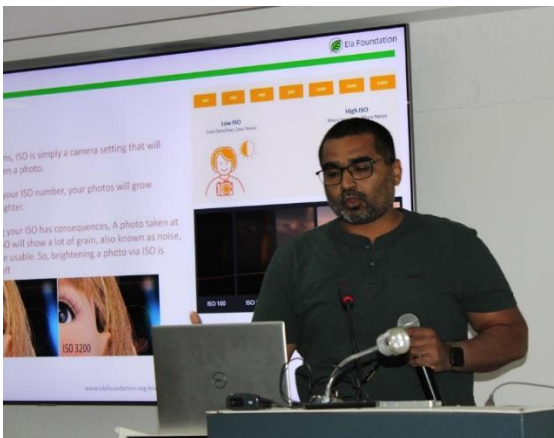
The program commenced with an introductory session, featuring a visual identification quiz that immediately engaged participants. Dr. Satish Pande's session on the History of Ornithology traced the evolution of bird studies, emphasizing the contributions of early naturalists and the impact of technological advancements. Pramod Deshpande's session on bird identification introduced the Merlin Bird ID application and highlighted the importance of audio and visual cues. Dr. Suruchi Pande's presentations of Ethno-ornithology examined the cultural significance of birds in Indian mythology and folklore, revealing the intricate relationship between humans and avian species, while Dr. Satish Karmalkar's lecture on feather care detailed the importance of preening and moulting. The course also included practical sessions on bird photography, providing participants with hands-on experience and valuable skills. Dr. Satish Pande presented case studies on endangered birds, highlighting challenges and scientific interventions. Participants explored rehabilitation, superstition's impact and pesticide effects. Contemporary issues like bird flu and habitat loss were addressed, emphasizing ecological roles.



Dr. Suruchi Pande during her session on Ethno-Ornithology on Day 2 of the workshop, showing bird-deities used in ancient texts.



Dr. Satish Karmalkar delivering the presentation on feather care.



Pramod Deshpande during his lecture on Bird Photography.

A key component of the program was the field visit to Okhla Bird Sanctuary, where participants applied their knowledge in a real-world setting, observing and identifying various bird species in their natural habitat. Site visit to Okhla Bird Sanctuary was highly appreciated, as the participants spotted cormorants, grey-legged geese, egrets and kingfishers under the guidance of experts from Ela Foundation.

The working session on tools and equipment used for bird tagging focused on methods for tracking and studying bird populations, including metal bands, GPS transmitters and radio collars. Techniques for minimizing stress on birds during tagging and ensuring equipment safety were emphasized. The session also covered tools for weighing birds, measuring wing length and body size, and improving tagging methods for research and conservation.



Site visit to Okhla Bird Sanctuary, Noida-Okhla



Working session and exhibition of bird tagging tools and methods by Dr. Satish Pande on Day 3



Participants from the Haryana Forest Department receiving their certificates upon completion of the course.



Final session of the course was the certificate distribution, followed by group photographs to close the successful three-days course 'Certificate in Basic Ornithology'.



Group Photo with all the collaborators and participants in the 'Certificate in Basic Ornithology' at INTACH, Delhi.

Post-course feedback revealed a strong appreciation for the depth and quality of the curriculum, with participants appreciating the expertise of the instructors and the interactive nature of the sessions. While largely affirming the course's substantive value and expert delivery, it also yielded constructive recommendations for future iterations. Attendees expressed a consistent desire for extended program durations, facilitating more in-depth discourse and experiential learning. The course was successfully completed with 33 participants receiving the certificate for completion of the course.

B. RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

I. INTACH Research Programme 2023-24 cycle

The INTACH Research Programme continues to make strides in fostering groundbreaking research across the country, offering both financial support and mentorship to the awardees. In line with this vision, the Second Review Committee Meeting for the INTACH Research Programme 2023-24 cycle took place on 23rd November 2024. This session provided a platform for the awardees to present their progress and engage in valuable discussions regarding the development of their research. The awardees were able to showcase the advancements made since the First Review and receive further insights into refining their work.

The Review Committee, comprising esteemed members like Dr. Suresh Sethuraman, Tamil Nadu State Convener, INTACH; Dr. Jyoti P Sharma, Professor at the Faculty of Architecture, School of Planning and Architecture, Delhi; and Dr. Madhura Dutta, a Culture and Development Specialist, offered constructive feedback to the researchers. Their input proved instrumental in shaping the awardees' projects, steering them toward more substantial and impactful contributions to heritage studies. Following this comprehensive review, the awardees submitted their draft reports on 27th January 2025, documenting the progress and outcomes of their research. This marks a critical milestone as the researchers continue to work towards their final deliverables due in April 2025.

II. INTACH Research Programme 2025 cycle

The INTACH Research Programme for 2025, announced on 29th August 2024, set the stage for an exciting year of discovery and innovation. With a focus on fostering research excellence, the programme offers three key categories of support:

Research Fellowship: INR 8,50,000

Research Scholarships: INR 3,00,000 to 5,00,000 each

Capacity Building Research Scholarship for INTACH Staff: INR 1,25,000 each

With a submission deadline of 9th December 2024, the programme attracted a remarkable 39 applications, showcasing the growing enthusiasm for research across diverse fields. Of these, 8 applications were received for the coveted Research Fellowship, while 31 submissions vied for the Research Scholarship.

The Selection Committee convened on 1st February 2025, diving into the rigorous task of evaluating these applications to select the brightest minds for the year ahead. After careful deliberation, 1 Fellow and 4 Scholars were selected for their outstanding proposals. To support their journey, the first installments of their grants have already been released, enabling them to kick-start their work. With such a strong response and a promising group of awardees, the programme is poised to drive significant impact in the years to come.

III. INTACH Journal of Heritage Studies

Volume 6, Issue 1

The issue, based on the theme 'Heritage and Communities', is scheduled to be released in March 2025. The issue comprises opinion editorials, papers from INTACH Research Programme 2022 cycle, photo essays, book reviews as well as a review of INTACH Publications on the theme. Currently, the issue is being finalised by the Editorial Team.

Volume 6, Issue 2

For this issue of the journal, academics as well as practitioners were invited to submit papers reflecting on the evolving practices of heritage conservation, focusing on the unique challenges and opportunities in India. A total of 125 abstracts were received. 48 abstracts were selected and invited to present their papers at a Symposium on 'Conserving Culturally Significant Places in India' that was conducted between 6th-7th December 2024. Following the paper presentations, the authors submitted revised papers that incorporate feedback received from the session chairs. The papers are in process of peer-review and selection.

IV. INTACH Awards for Interdisciplinary Heritage Documentation 2025

The nationwide Awards programme for Interdisciplinary Heritage Documentation aims to develop and promote sensitivity and awareness towards heritage in undergraduate students across the country. The motivation is to encourage a holistic understanding of heritage by mapping and interpreting the intricate relationship between the built environment, cultural practices and natural surroundings. The Awards programme for the 2025 cycle was declared open to accepting entries from 23rd December 2025 and the last date of submission is set for 30th June 2025.



Poster for INTACH Awards for Interdisciplinary Heritage Documentation 2025

C. EVENTS AND OUTREACH

I. Symposium on 'Conserving Culturally Significant Places in India'

For the upcoming issue of the INTACH Journal of Heritage Studies (Volume 6, Issue 2), we invited academics as well as practitioners to submit abstracts of papers on the theme 'Conserving Culturally Significant Places in India' with the following key focus areas:

- Global frameworks in perspective
- Reflections of multiculturalism
- Responding to contemporary challenges
- Socio-economic impact of conservation

We received a total of 125 abstracts. To facilitate further discussion, we held a Symposium marking the completion of 20 years of the 'INTACH Charter for the Conservation of Unprotected Architectural Heritage and Sites in India', between 6th-7th December 2024. Based on the review of abstracts by the Editorial Advisory Board of the Journal, we invited 48 authors of selected abstracts to present their work-in-progress and receive constructive feedback over these two days. The Symposium was held in physical mode on Day 1, followed by online sessions on Day 2.

The event kicked off on 6th December 2024 with inspiring addresses. We started with a Welcome Address by Dr. Parul Munjal, Director of INTACH Heritage Academy, followed by an insightful Address by Mr. Ravinder Singh, Member Secretary of INTACH.



Welcome Address by Dr. Parul Munjal, Director, IHA



Address by Mr. Ravindra Singh, Member Secretary, INTACH

The event was then elevated by the Keynote Address by Prof. AGK Menon, Founder Member of INTACH and Principal Author of the INTACH Charter, setting the stage for impactful conversations on the future of heritage conservation in India. He addressed the need for an assessment of conservation practice in relation to the INTACH Charter over the last two decades, its relevance today and the path forward.



Keynote Address by Prof. AGK Menon, Founder Member, INTACH and Principal Author, INTACH Charter

Day 1 was divided into four sessions with two chairs per session and four presenters. Renowned academics and practitioners were invited as chairs to provide constructive feedback to the participants. These included: Gurmeet S Rai, Dr. Arun Menon, Dr. Shikha Jain, Dr. Madhura Dutta, Dr. Shahul Ameen, Dr. Neeti Trivedi and Neerupama Y Modwel. Day 2, on the other hand, was divided into six sessions with two chairs and around four to five presenters each. The chairs included: Dr. Molly Kaushal, Dr. Niyati Jigyasu, Dr. Sanghamitra Basu, Pankaj Modi, Prof. Suryanarayana Murthy, Dr. Rima Hooja, Prof. Surajit Sarkar, Dr. Yaaminey Mubayi, Dr. Louise Cooke, Dr. Vishakha Kawathekar, Dr. Priyaleen Singh and Divay Gupta.



Glimpses from Session I: The Chairs, Prof. AGK Menon and Neerupama Y Modwel, and the Presenters in conversation



Glimpses from Session II: The Chairs, Dr. Madhura Dutta and Dr. Shahul Ameen KT, and the presenters in conversation

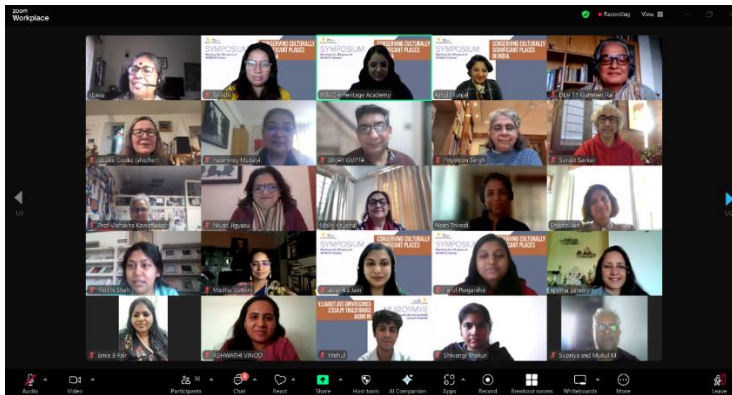


Glimpses from Session III: The Chairs, Gurmeet S Rai and Dr. Arun Menon, and the presenters in conversation



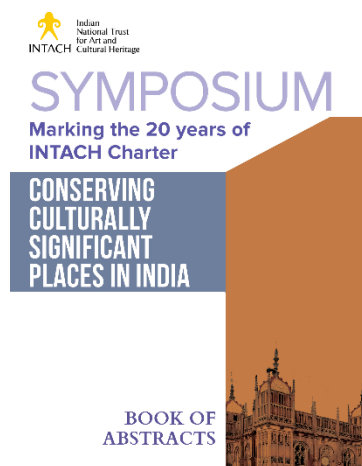
Glimpses from Session IV: The Chairs, Dr. Shikha Jain and Dr. Neeti Trivedi, and the Presenters in conversation

The symposium ended with a dynamic online panel discussion among the Chairs, reflecting on the key themes that emerged throughout the two days of the Symposium. The discussion aimed to address the future of heritage conservation in India, the challenges and opportunities facing cultural preservation and the role of interdisciplinary approaches in safeguarding cultural and architectural legacies.



Glimpse from the final session: Panel Discussion among Chairs

The event was also accompanied by the publication of a Book of Abstracts, a compilation of 48 selected abstracts out of 125 that were received as a response to the call for papers.



Book of Abstracts

II. Visit of Charles Wallace India Trust (CWIT), 21 February 2025

INTACH hosted Ms. Shreela Ghosh, Secretary, CWIT and Mr. John Falconer, Trustee, CWIT on 21st February 2025. The meeting entailed an interaction with Chairman and Member Secretary of INTACH and a discussion with Mr. Nilabh Sinha, Principal Director, A&MH Division and Ms. Nerupama Modwel, Principal Director, ICH along with Ms. Shruti Wahi and Ms. Tavishi Gautam from the IHA team, providing an overall introduction to the structure and work of INTACH.



Ms. Nerupama Modwel, Principal Director, ICH, Mr. Ravindra Singh, MS, INTACH, Mr. John Falconer, Trustee, CWIT, Mr. LK Gupta, Chairman, INTACH and Ms. Shreela Ghosh, Secretary, CWIT with Mr. Nilabh Sinha, Principal Director, A&MH during their visit to INTACH

III. Valedictory Session of 'Conserving Modern Architecture in India: The Getty and INTACH collaboration', 24 February 2025

To mark the conclusion of the Getty and INTACH collaboration on the academic programme on Conservation of Modern Architecture in India a Valedictory Session was held on the 24th February 2024. The stakeholders in the collaboration were acknowledged and honoured during the programme. This was followed by Lec-dems on Carnatic Violin by Vid. Delhi R Sridhar in collaboration with Spicmacay and on Bharatnatyam by Dakshina Vaidyanathan Baghel.



Chandler McCoy of Getty being honoured by Gp Capt Arvind Shukla (Retd.), Director Chapters Division and Dr. Parul Munjal, Director, IHA



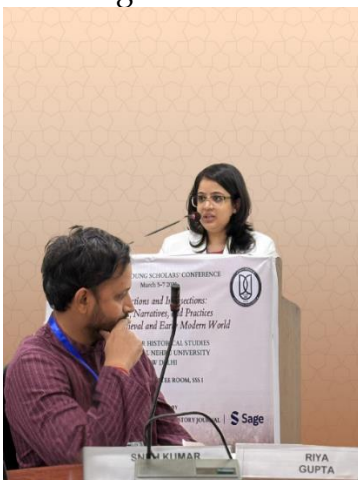
Lec-Dem on Carnatic Violin by Vid. Delhi R Sridhar, Shri Vignesh Jayaraman & Shri Shounok Banerjee in Collaboration with Spic Macay



Susan Mcdonald, Head of Buildings and Sites, Getty, Anita Singh, Convener, Delhi Chapter and Dr. Parul Munjal, Director, IHA honouring Dakshina Vaidyanathan Baghel

IV. Paper presentation by Dr. Riya Gupta, Research Associate, IHA, at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, 5 March 2025

Dr. Riya Gupta, Research Associate, IHA, was invited to be part of the Inaugural Panel of the annual Young Scholars' Conference organised by the Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, 5th-7th March 2025. The theme of the panel was 'Emerging Trends and Challenges in Writing Medieval and Early Modern History'. On the 5th, she shared insights on the theme from her doctoral research and discussed her upcoming book to be published by Routledge.



Dr. Riya Gupta delivering her paper titled 'The Practice of Microhistory: Challenges in capturing the veins, emotions and rhythms' at JNU, New Delhi

D. 15th Academic Council Meeting, 5 December 2024

The 15th Academic Council Meeting was held on 5th December 2024 at the INTACH premises in New Delhi. The meeting was attended by Dr. Satish Pandey, Dr. Arun Menon, Dr. Neha Midha, Dr. Madhura Dutta and Prof. Surajit Sarkar and convened by Dr. Parul Munjal. Some important points discussed during the meeting were:

- Conducting a market survey to get a better understanding of industry requirements for a heritage professional that can be bridged through the INTACH PG Diploma
- Carrying out single blind peer review for INTACH Journal of Heritage Studies
- Focusing on colleges beyond those offering architecture programmes for INTACH Awards for Interdisciplinary Heritage Documentation
- Introducing a stipend for the scholar in the INTACH Research Scholarships with possible mechanisms may be considered.
- Promoting entrepreneurship in heritage sector through grannies and awards in collaborative format
- Offering support to INTACH's technical resource people for participation in conferences, workshops, training programmes etc. to help build their professional capacities



The Academic Council meeting in progress

Heritage Education and Communication Service (HECS) Activities

TEACHER TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Dehradun

2nd - 3rd December 2024, 40 Participants, 18 Schools, 2 Colleges and the Forest Department, Dehradun

HECS, INTACH, in collaboration with the INTACH Dehradun Chapter and the Uttarakhand Forest Department, organized a two-day Teacher Training Workshop at Manthan Hall, Forest Department Uttarakhand. Local resource persons included Dr. Dhananjai Mohan (PCCF & HOFF, Forest department, Uttarakhand), Ms. Vidya Srinivasan (SPIC MACAY), Mr. Vijay Bhatt (Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samiti) and Ms. Neha Kholi (Research Scholar, Nature Interpretation Centre, Dehradun). HECS representatives Ms. Purnima Datt (PD HECS) and Ms. Christina Shangne, Ms. Anjali Bharthari Co-Convener of the Uttarakhand Chapter, Ms. Bharti Jain Convener of INTACH Dehradun and Ms. Apurva Gour Co-Convener of INTACH Dehradun Chapter, were also present. The workshop began with welcome addresses by Ms. Anjali Bharthari and Ms. Bharti Jain, followed by Ms. Purnima Datt's session on India's heritage. Dr. Dhananjai Mohan discussed Dehradun's natural heritage, Ms. Apurva Gour covered the city's history, and Ms. Vidya Srinivasan highlighted cultural traditions. Mr. Vijay Bhatt's session on Dehradun's canals illustrated their ecological importance. Teachers explored heritage education methodologies and the FILMIT project.

On day two, participants visited the Forest Research Institute (FRI) for a heritage walk, attended sessions on HECS initiatives, and presented group activities on Dehradun's heritage. The event concluded with remarks by Mr. Prasanna Patro, certificate distribution, and resource material dissemination, equipping educators to promote heritage awareness.

FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Originally established as the Imperial Forest Research Institute, the Forest Research Institute (FRI) in Dehradun is one of India's oldest forestry research institutions. Set against the Himalayas, its Greco-Roman and Colonial architecture was once recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records as the world's largest brick structure.



Rajkot

6th January 2025, 36 Participants, 18 Institutions

HECS, INTACH, in collaboration with INTACH Rajkot Chapter, conducted an online Teacher Training Workshop via Google Meet with 36 participants from 18 institutions, along with HECS and Rajkot Chapter teams.

Ms. Riddhi Shah, Convener, INTACH Rajkot, introduced HECS and outlined upcoming heritage programs. Ms. Purnima Datt, Principal Director, HECS, appreciated Rajkot Chapter's efforts and the involvement of PM Shree schools. She led a session on heritage, highlighting its various facets and mentioning the recent UNESCO recognition of Garba Dance. Ms. Shah summarized key points in Gujarati, followed by the screening of FILMIT films. Ms. Shah then presented on INTACH and Rajkot's heritage, covering natural sites, crafts, arts, literature, and architecture. Ms. Datt introduced Dharohar Shiksha (Heritage Education), discussing INTACH's objectives and HECS resources.

The workshop concluded with closing remarks and a group photo. As part of an ongoing project, INTACH Rajkot will organize heritage walks, documentary screenings, interactive sessions, and competitions in PM Shree schools, supported by the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Office, Rajkot.



Ahmedabad

9th-10th January 2025, 35 Participants, 19 Schools

HECS, INTACH, in collaboration with INTACH Ahmedabad Chapter, conducted a two-day Teacher Training Workshop at Sheth CN Vidya Vihar, Ambavadi.

Ahmedabad Convener Ms. Utpala Desai welcomed the teachers, thanking the 112-year-old host school and HECS Delhi. Ms. Bhavna Ramrakhiani in her session talked about tangible and intangible heritage, engaging teachers in listing and discussing intangible heritage elements. Ms. Purnima Datt, Principal Director, HECS, highlighted INTACH's initiatives, emphasizing the role of teachers in heritage education. She discussed India's diverse heritage, organizing activities, and conducting heritage walks, guiding participants on curriculum development and heritage clubs.

Day 2 featured a heritage walk at the Lalbhai Dalpatbhai Museum, exploring Jain heritage and Ragmala paintings of Gujarat and Rajasthan, guided by Ms. Priyanka and Ms. Sunanda. Ms. Purnima Datt and Ms. Vaishnavi Singh then led a session on heritage club outreach. The workshop concluded with group activities showcasing Ahmedabad's heritage.

LALBHAI DALPATBHAI MUSEUM

The Lalbhai Dalpatbhai Museum in Ahmedabad was established in 1956, designed by B.V. Doshi. The museum houses a rich collection of ancient manuscripts, exquisite sculptures, miniature paintings, Jain artifacts and rare coins. As part of the L.D. Institute of Indology, it plays a key role in preserving India's artistic and literary heritage



COLLEGE HERITAGE VOLUNTEER WORKSHOP

Varanasi

26th November, 2024, 76 Students, 4 Teachers, 7 Colleges

The College Heritage Volunteer Workshop was held at Sunbeam College for Women, Bhagwanpur, Varanasi, organized by INTACH Varanasi Chapter in collaboration with HECS. Shri Ashok Kapoor, Convener, INTACH Varanasi, delivered the keynote address, followed by Principal Saurabh Sen's appreciation of INTACH's heritage efforts. Ms. Nanki Kaur and Ms. Vaishnavi Singh (HECS) presented on India's diverse heritage and ways students can contribute to its preservation. Mr. Sanjeev Kumar discussed Varanasi's tangible heritage and the role of youth and women in conservation. Dr. Tulasi Kumar Joshi spoke on Shastrarth and Kashiki Panditya Parampara. In the final session, Ms. Singh and Ms. Kaur guided students on volunteering with INTACH. An interactive activity had students propose heritage engagement ideas on themes like River Ganga, Ramnagar Fort, Banarasi sarees, Kathak, and material heritage. The workshop concluded with a felicitation ceremony and a group photograph.

KASHI KI PANDITYA PARAMPARA

'Kashi ki Panditya Parampara' is a book written in 1952 which covers all the literary sources where Kashi has been mentioned. All these sources talk about the tradition of education in Kashi(Varanasi) .



Malerkotla

10th December 2024, 25 Students, 26 Teachers, 3 Colleges, 15 Schools

The College Heritage Volunteer and Capacity Building Workshop organized by INTACH Malerkotla Chapter in collaboration with HECS at Government College of Education, Malerkotla. Dr. Salim Muhammad (Convener) and Mr. Sabar Ali Zobairi (Co-Convener) introduced INTACH's work in Malerkotla, highlighting efforts to preserve the Maqbaras of the Nawabs. Maj. Gen. Balwinder Singh spoke on Punjab's rich history and Malerkotla's unique role during Partition. Ms. Purnima Datt (PD, HECS) discussed India's diverse heritage, followed by Dr. Mohammed Farooqi's reflections on growing up near the Maqbaras and the city's legacy of harmony and its significance in Sikh history, particularly the "Haan da Naara" incident. Ms. Datt and Ms. Nanki Kaur guided participants on heritage education and volunteering with INTACH. Dr. Salim then traced Malerkotla's rich history and showcased a rare Urdu book from WWII, emphasizing the city's literary heritage. The workshop concluded with a lively discussion and a felicitation ceremony.

PUNJAB'S SOLE URDU PG COURSE

The Urdu department of Government College Malerkotla holds a distinguished identity as it is the only college in Punjab that provides a post graduate course in Urdu to students. This is important as Urdu is one of the many native languages of Punjab.



Delhi

22nd January 2025, 59 Students, 13 Teachers, 11 Colleges



The Delhi College Heritage Volunteer Workshop was held at India International Centre, Annex, New Delhi and Multipurpose Hall, INTACH, New Delhi, in collaboration with India International Centre, New Delhi. Ms. Purnima Datt (HECS) opened the workshop with an introduction to INTACH and the screening of the INTACH film. She emphasized the vulnerability of intangible heritage, and provided an overview of INTACH's aims, objectives, and the various categories of heritage, illustrating each with examples. Dr. Swapna Liddle, eminent historian, author, Advisor INTACH Delhi Chapter discussed Delhi's water heritage, emphasizing the Yamuna's role in shaping the city's culture and trade. This was followed by a quiz activity. Dr. Narayani Gupta, author, historian and advisor, INTACH, in her session highlighted the need to explore local histories beyond textbook narratives. Following this, the participants also visited the INTACH Conservation Lab to learn about heritage conservation. Post-lunch, Mrs. Nerupama Y. Modwel, Principal Director of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Division, INTACH, spoke on INTACH's cultural mapping of the Ganga under Namami Gange, detailing traditions, festivals, and culinary heritage. She highlighted contributions from Dr. Pushpesh Pant and artefact collectors, and showcased narratives like Ganga Katha and INTACH's role at the Kumbh Mela. The HECS team then presented on the 'College Heritage Volunteer Programme and Heritage in my Institution,' followed by an interactive group activity, where students proposed heritage-focused initiatives. The event concluded with a felicitation ceremony led by Dr. S. Suresh, INTACH Tamil Nadu State Convener.



DISCOVER YOUR LIVING HERITAGE- ENDANGERED ART AND CRAFT WORKSHOPS IN COLLABORATION WITH RESPECTIVE CHAPTERS

Mandi

On 9th November 2024, a workshop on the endangered Pahari miniature art form 'Mandi Kalam' was conducted for 62 students from 11 schools by renowned artist Ms. Parul Kapoor, who explained the step-by-step process of creating Mandi Kalam paintings.



Calicut

On 16th-17th November 2024, a two-day residential workshop on Traditional Mural Painting was held at the Socio Religious Centre, Christ Hall, Malaparamba, Kozhikode, where 16 students from 8 schools received hands-on training from a team of professional mural artists – Shri Naveen Kumar, Smt. Deepika Nair, and Shri Habeeb Rahman.



Murshidabad

On 8th–9th November 2024, a two-day workshop on Shola craft was conducted at Khagra Seva Milani High School, where 60 students from 6 schools learned the techniques of cutting and shaping Shola to create intricate designs from veteran Shola artist Mr. Nakul Dutta Mahashaya of Shaktipur.



Rajkot

On 24th November 2024, a Tie-Dye workshop was held at Matushree Jethiben Gordhanbhai Govani Umabhawan and Tapasvi International School in Rajkot, where 75 students from 7 schools learned about the history and techniques of Tie-Dye from expert artist Monica Thesiya and garment designer Rashmi Dattani, who demonstrated various methods including Bandhej, Leheriya, Shibori, and abstract designs.



Solapur

On 26th November 2024, a Godhadi – Traditional Quilt-Making Workshop was conducted at SES College of Architecture in Solapur, where 75 students from 15 schools were taught the art of making Godhadi quilts – crafted from old cloth pieces sewn onto a base like a bedsheet or saree – by chief expert Mrs. Kalawati Wagdarikar, along with Mrs. Revati Dingre and Mrs. Sheela Patil.



Mangaluru

On 31st January in Mangaluru, a workshop was conducted for 50 students from 2 schools by Sachidananda K.J. and Soumya Sachidananda, who began with an engaging introduction to charkha spinning, highlighting its significance as a traditional craft and a means of fostering focus and self-reliance; during the session, Sachidananda demonstrated the creation of a 500-meter yarn and explained its transformation into textiles.



Meghalaya

On 6th September 2024, a one-day wood handicraft workshop was held at Pearly Dew Higher Secondary School in Meghalaya, where 46 students from 4 schools learned the fundamentals and techniques of woodcraft from Mr. Gilford Pde, who provided hands-on experience by guiding them in the careful use of tools like chisels, hammers, and mallets for wood carving.



Dhar

On 9th March 2025 in Dhar, a one-day craft workshop on Crochet was conducted for 30 students from 4 schools by trainers Mrs. Nandita Raje, Mrs. Shalini Bhosale, and their associates, where participants were provided with crochet needles, wool, and thread to create multipurpose items.



FILMIT INDIA

In 2024-2025, FILMIT India marked its 17th year. As part of the project, Film Festivals were held across various FILMIT cities, showcasing the best films from each city along with the Overall Best Films. Students shared their experiences of their FILMIT journey, highlighting their learning and challenges. Each participating school received certificates of participation and awards, along with sets of books. The festivals were conducted in the following locations:

Chandigarh and Ambala

On 30th January 2025, St. Kabir Public School, Chandigarh, hosted the Filmit India Festival attended by 62 students and teachers from 8 schools of Chandigarh and 4 schools of Ambala. The Chief Guest was filmmaker and producer Mr. Ojaswwee Sharma, with Guests of Honour Mr. Virinder Kapoor (Convener, Chandigarh Chapter), Col. R.D. Singh (Convener, Ambala Chapter), Ms. Deepika Gandhi (Co-Convener, Chandigarh Chapter), and Mr. Gurpreet Bakshi (Chief Administrator of St. Kabir Public School), along with the HECS team.



Varanasi

On 30th January 2025, the Filmit India Festival was held at W.H. Smith Memorial School, Sagra, with 106 teachers and students from 15 schools of Varanasi and 4 schools from Ayodhya. The Chief Guest was Dr. Sunil Vishwakarma, Chairman of the State Lalit Kala Academy, Uttar Pradesh, and the Guest of Honour was Ms. Jaswinder Kaur. Also present were Ms. Anita Pauline Dey, Principal of W.H. Smith Memorial School; Mr. Ashok Kapoor, Convener of the Varanasi Chapter; and Mr. Nirmal Joshi.



Kolkata

On 31st January 2025, Birla High School hosted the Filmit India Festival, attended by 67 students and teachers from 14 schools. The Chief Guest was renowned National Award-winning film director Mr. Ashoke Vishwanathan, and the event was graced by Mr. G.M. Kapur (Convener, Calcutta Chapter) and Ms. Kanchana Mukhopadhyay (Co-Convener, Calcutta Chapter).



Delhi

On 4th February 2025, the Filmit India Festival was hosted by HECS, INTACH, in collaboration with the India International Centre at CD Deshmukh Auditorium, IIC, with 196 students and teachers from 36 schools of Delhi and NCR. The event featured filmmaker Bappa Ray, photographer Serena Chopra, and BBC documentary filmmaker and former FILMIT participant Himanshi Saini. Major General (Retd.) L.K. Gupta, Chairman of INTACH, was also present.



Amritsar and Punjab

The Filmit India Festival was held at Spring Dale Senior School, Amritsar, with 54 students and teachers from 5 schools of Amritsar and 4 schools from Beas, Kapurthala, Jalandhar, and Tarn Taran. The Chief Guest was filmmaker Mr. Ojaswwee Sharma, joined by Maj. Gen. Balwinder Singh (Convener, Punjab State Chapter), Mr. Gagandeep Singh Virk (Convener, Amritsar Chapter), Mr. Rajiv Kumar Sharma (Principal, Spring Dale Senior School), and Ms. Guneet Arora (Vice Principal).



Jaipur

On 7th February 2025, The Palace School in Jaipur hosted the Filmit India Festival, attended by 100 teachers and students from 16 schools. Chief Guest Ms. Falguni Bansal, a former TV anchor and senior journalist, and Guest of Honour Mr. Hanu Roj, Founder and Festival Director of the Jaipur Film Festival, graced the event along with Ms. Rama Datt (Executive Trustee, Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum), Ms. Urvashi Warman (Principal, The Palace School), and Ms. Dharmendra Kanwar (Convener, INTACH Jaipur).



Udaipur

On 8th February 2025, the Filmit India Festival was hosted by the Udaipur Chapter at Maharana Mewar Public School, with 36 students and 8 teachers from 4 schools. The Chief Guest was Mr. Gaurav Prabhakar, with Mr. Sunil Vashisht (Life Member) and Mr. Gaurav Singhvi (Chapter Convener) also present.



Ahmedabad

On 11th February 2025, the Filmit India Festival took place at Shreyas Foundation, Ahmedabad, with 45 students and teachers from 7 schools. The event was graced by Chief Guest Mr. Sanjiv Shah, acclaimed filmmaker and editor, and attended by INTACH Ahmedabad Convener Ms. Utpala Desai, Co-Convener Mr. Kalpesh Dalal, their team members, and HECS representatives Ms. Christina Shangne and Ms. Smriti Malhotra.



Vadodara

On 12th February 2025, Navrachana International School, Vadodara, hosted the Filmit India Festival with 100 students and teachers from 10 schools. The Chief Guest was budding filmmaker Mr. Karan Bhatt, joined by guests Ms. Aarzoo Patel and Mr. Tatsat Shah, both architects with filmmaking experience. Also present were the school principals, Vadodara Convener Mr. Sanjiv Joshi, Co-Convener Ms. Tarisha Gaurav Desai, and the HECS team.



Mumbai

On 12th February 2025, the Filmit India Festival was held at RN Podar School, Mumbai, with 60 students and teachers from 10 schools. The Chief Guest was film director and former ad man Mr. Milind Dhaimade. Also present were Ms. Rajul Dhaimade (Co-Convener, Greater Mumbai Chapter), Ms. Purnima Datt (Principal Director, HECS, INTACH), and Ms. Suman Samarth (Head of Secondary School, RN Podar).



Hyderabad

On 12th February 2025, Jubilee Hills Public School hosted the Filmit India Festival in Hyderabad, with 110 students and teachers from 21 schools. Chief Guest Mr. Arvind Achanta, a cinematographer and researcher, was joined by Ms. P. Kanchana Valli (Principal of the school), Ms. Anuradha Reddy (Convener, INTACH Hyderabad Chapter), and Mr. Abhishek Das of HECS.



Goa

On 13th February 2025, the Filmit India Festival was held at Don Bosco Higher Secondary School, Panjim, Goa, with 51 students and teachers from 11 schools. The Chief Guest was Mr. Paulo D'Silva Gomes, representative of Fundação Oriente in India, along with Ms. Arthy Muthanna Singh, children's author and freelance journalist. The event was also graced by Ms. Fatima Da Silva Gracias (Convener, INTACH Goa Chapter) and Ms. Purnima Datt of HECS.



Chennai

On 13th February 2025, Jubilee Maharishi Vidya Mandir in Chennai hosted the Filmit India Festival, attended by 85 students and teachers from 11 schools. The Chief Guest was renowned director, actress, and entrepreneur Ms. Sruti Harihara Subramanian. Also present were TC Perumal (Secretary), Ms. Gnyana Priya (Head Mistress), Mrs. D. Jayalakshmi (AHM), and Dr. S. Suresh (Convener, INTACH Tamil Nadu State Chapter).



Kochi

On 14th February 2025, The Kerala Museum in Kochi hosted the Filmit India Festival with 60 students and teachers from 9 schools. Chief Guest Mr. Bonnie Thomas, a cartoonist and writer, graced the event along with Mr. Babu C. Rajeev, Mr. Biley Menon (Convener and Co-Convener of the Kochi Chapter), Ms. Aditi Nayar (Director of the Kerala Museum), and Mr. Abhishek Das of HECS.



NATIONAL PROGRAMMES

INTACH NATIONAL HERITAGE QUIZ 2024

Since 2014, the Heritage Education and Communication Service has organized the INTACH National Heritage Quiz, the largest heritage quiz in India for students in classes 7-10. Covering the country's built, natural, material, and living heritage, this multilingual quiz is conducted in 11 regional languages and English, ensuring broad participation from schools nationwide. The quiz aims to foster awareness, volunteerism, and activism among students. This year, 130 INTACH chapters participated in the competition, with 23 state-level rounds held across the country. The reports from these rounds are provided below.

INTACH NATIONAL HERITAGE QUIZ - CITY ROUNDS 2024

Some additional city rounds of the INTACH National Heritage Quiz 2024 were conducted in the following cities:

Dibrugarh

19th October 2024

The programme was conducted in Shiksha Valley school with 7 schools and 26 students. The quiz was led by Dharmaraj Joshi and Narayan Seal assisted. Delhi Public School, Mohanbari, Dibrugarh won the city rounds and proceeded to compete in the state finals.

Agartala

22nd October 2024

The event was conducted in Don Bosco School with 6 schools and 15 teams with Don Bosco School, Agartala securing victory.

Bengaluru

15th November 2024

The event was conducted at Greenwood High International School, ICSE Campus with 6 competing schools and 13 teams. The quizmaster Kunal Savarkar and Anu from INTCH were present. Presidency School, RT Nagar won the competition.

Mumbai

15th November 2024

This event was conducted at Khadi Gramodyog Bhavan, Fort in Mumbai with 15 participating schools and 26 teams. The quiz was conducted by Seema Chari with Kunal Savarkar and Sonal Gupta in attendance. The Children's Academy, Ashok Nagar, Kandiyali won the city rounds.

STATE ROUNDS

Odisha

22nd September 2024



The state-level quiz was organized at MBS Public School, Bhubaneswar. The quiz included written, visual, and audio rounds. Janmejaya Jena and Omkar Patra from MBS Public School won the competition. The Second Team was from the Siddhi Vinayak Public School, Balasore comprising of Subham Parida and Shreeyam Panda. The Third Team was from Odisha Adarsh Vidyalaya, Patharchepa, Balangir which comprised of Aniket Tripathy and Durllav Puan. The Fourth Runners Up were the team from Odisha Adarsh Vidyalaya, Ranibahal, Mayurbhanj.

Uttarakhand

1st October 2024



The state rounds of the National quiz was held at the Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC), Dehradun. The event saw participation from multiple schools across the state of Uttarakhand and nearby districts. The quizmaster for the event was Mr Kunal Sarvarkar. Oak Grove School, Mussoorie, won the competition with students Hari Om Babu and Yash Raj from Class 10, guided by their teacher S.K. Raza.

Delhi-NCR

3rd October 2024



Conducted in collaboration with India International Centre, this round had 72 schools and 139 teams competing. The quiz was graced by INTACH Member Secretary, Mr. Ravindra Singh, Major General LK Gupta and Director of IIC Mr. KN Srivastava. The quiz was conducted by a renowned quizmaster, Mr Kunal Sarvarkar and his team from Xpress Minds. Delhi Public School, Greater Noida emerged victorious with Aarush Saini and Pranav Mukund, mentored by teacher Fardeen A Majumdar.

Haryana

9th October 2024



The state round was attended by Teams from Chandigarh, Gurgaon, Faridabad, Ambala, Hisar, Panipat and Yamunanagar participated in the state finals. Held at Strawberry Fields High School, this round had 17 schools with 60 teams. The event was graced by Mr. V K Kapoor (retd.) IPS, Convener, Chandigarh Chapter and Mr. Vivek Attrey (IAS), Co-Convener Chandigarh Chapter and Col. (retd.) R D Singh, Convener, Ambala Chapter. Learning Paths School won, with students Aditya Gupta and Anant Singh, coached by teacher Ankur Bahadur.

Madhya Pradesh

20th October 2024



The competition was organized in Dhar, teams from Chanderi, Morena, Katni, and Dhar participated. Mr. Shyam Sharma was the quiz master for the event. Utkrisht Vidyalaya, Dhar, won and went onto competing in the national finals in Delhi.

Himachal Pradesh

24th October 2024



Taking place at Auckland House Boys' School, 15 schools and 49 teams participated. The quiz master who conducted the quiz was Aman Chaudhary. Dayanand Public School, Shimla, won with Ekansh Chauhan and Dhruvansh Thakur (Class 10), coached by Aaina Bhaik.

Gujarat

26th October 2024



The Gujarat state finals had five competing teams from Ahmedabad, Bhavnagar, Jamnagar, Rajkot, and Vadodra. The Chief Guest to grace the event was Prof Dr K. Krishnan, an eminent Archaeologist who shared some lovely insights on Heritage issue. The quiz consisted of direct, visual clue, and rapid-fire rounds. Bright Day School, Vadodra, won and went onto representing the state in the national finals.

Bihar

27th October, 2024



The competition was jointly organised by Bihar and Patna chapter of INTACH at Future Hundred IAS Coaching Academy. The quiz was conducted by Ms. Rachna Priyadarshini. Vivek Kumar (10th Grade) and Tushar Kumar (9th) of Jai Hind Public School, Gaya won the quiz. The competition was widely covered by the press of the region.

Rajasthan

28th October 2024



The competition was held at Mehrangarh Fort, Jodhpur. The participating chapters were Ajmer Alwar, Beawar, Jodhpur, Barmer, Sirohi, Udaipur and Bikaner. The winners were Kajal Kanwar Shekhawat and Shailja Rathore from Maharani Kishori Devi Girls' School, Bikaner. They will represent Rajasthan at the national finals.

Kerala

2nd November 2024



The Kerala state round took place in collaboration with Zoo & Museum department at the State museum of Kerala in Thrissur. Around 6 teams from Kochi, Thrissur, Kasargod, Trivandrum and Kozhikode participated in the state round. Bhavan's Irinjalakuda secured the first place, while the students from Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Periyar, Kasargod team was the runner-up.

Uttar Pradesh

4th November 2024



The Sunbeam School and Hostel, Varuna hosted the Uttar Pradesh State finals. Eight chapters participated in the quiz which was won by Sunbeam School, Bhagwanpur qualified for the national finals. Mr. Nirmal Joshi was the quiz master. Dr. Anupama Mishra, Principal Sunbeam, Mr. Ashok Kapoor (Convener, Varanasi), Ms. Neetu Agarwal (Convener, Lucknow) and Mr. Anil Keshari (Additional Co-Convener, Varanasi) were present for the event.

Andhra Pradesh

4th November 2024



The state quiz was held with eight district-level qualifying schools. The quiz was conducted at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's Vidyashram in Guntur and the quizmaster was Mr Sri SVS Lakshmi Narayana. From the participating schools, Augustine Ashram Public School, Kakinada, won the competition, while Rotary English Medium School, Anantapur, was the runner-up.

West Bengal

4th November 2024



The State round of the quiz was held in Kolkata, the event included winners from four regional chapters—Darjeeling, Santiniketan, Murshidabad, and Kolkata. Welcome address was given by Mr. Gour M. Kapur, Convener and Ms. Kanchana Mukhopadhyay, Co- Convener. The quiz competition was host by the quiz masters Ms. Smita Mehta and Dr. Sutapa Joti, members of INTACH, Calcutta Chapter. Students from Sargachi Ramkrishna Mission High School, Berhampore won first place.

Chhattisgarh

5th November 2024



Held at Vrindavan Hall, Civil Lines, Raipur, the competition saw 16 participants from eight chapters. The winners were Krishna Patel and Shashank Shekhar Tiwari from Manendragarh-Koriya. The event was attended by prominent guests, and certificates were distributed. The quiz was covered widely by the regional press.

Punjab

5th November 2024



The State level round saw participation from ten teams across different districts. The event was graced by the presence of Major Gen. Balwinder Singh, Convener of Punjab State Chapter. The competition covered various heritage-related topics. Spring Dale Senior School, Amritsar, won the competition. Students from Swami Sant Public School Phagwara stood second and team from Gyansh Public school Sangrur came third.

Jammu & Kashmir

11th November 2024



This was held online with the HECS team, the competition had teams from Jammu and Srinagar. Four schools participated which comprised of the first two teams of Jammu and Srinagar respectively. Teams were from GHS Mallabagh, Srinagar, BHS Soura, Jodhamal Public School and K C Public School. K.C. Public School emerged victorious, which then went on to compete at the National final quiz in Delhi.

Karnataka

15th November 2024



The Karnataka state round was held in Bengaluru at Greenwood High International School. There were 6 schools that participated with 13 teams; the quiz was enthusiastically conducted by Mr Kunal Sarvarkar of Xpress Minds Edutainment. Presidency School, R.T. Nagar, won the competition and they then further advanced to the national finals.

North-East Mega Finals

16th November 2024



The National heritage quiz was conducted in Assam, Tripura, Mizoram, Sikkim, and Nagaland and then the Mega finals were conducted in Guwahati, Assam.

It was held at Cotton State University in the city, with 5 participating schools. Maharishi Vidya Mandir 1, Silpukhuri and Ram Janaki Higher Secondary School, Dimapur, was the runner-up.

Jharkhand

18th November 2024



The state-level quiz was held at Delhi Public School, Ranchi, with four city-level teams participating. The event was conducted by Mr. Rajeev Ranjan, Convener of INTACH Ranchi Chapter, who served as the Quiz Master. Mr. Ajay Kumar Mishra and Ms. Devla Murmu from the INTACH Jamshedpur Chapter honored the occasion with their presence. Students from DPS Ranchi won the event competed in the national finals in Delhi.

National Finals - India International Centre- New Delhi 16th & 17th December 2024



The National Heritage Quiz 2024, organized by INTACH's Heritage Education and Communication Service (HECS) in collaboration with India International Centre, brought together 46 students from 23 states for a prestigious competition in Delhi. The event began with an orientation program at INTACH headquarters, where participants were introduced to the format and objectives of the quiz on 16th December. The states were then divided into four semi-final groups. Each group competed in multiple rounds, testing their knowledge of India's rich heritage, with the top teams advancing to the final round. The final was an intense with Springdale Senior School, Amritsar, emerging as the winner, followed by Delhi Public School, Greater Noida, in second place, and The Presidency School, RT Nagar, Bengaluru, securing third. Sunbeam School, Bhagwanpur, Varanasi, finished fourth. The event concluded with a felicitation ceremony, where INTACH's Member Secretary, Mr. Ravindra Singh (Retd. IAS), Chairman Major General LK Gupta along with Ms. Purnima Datt (Principal Director, HECS, INTACH) and Mr. Kunal Savarkar (Quizmaster), gave the awards.

Celebrating India- National Poster Making Competition

The **Celebrating India** National Poster Making Competition, organized by the **Heritage Education and Communication Service** encourages middle school students to explore and showcase the **intangible cultural heritage** of their region. Through creative posters and write-ups, participants highlight local **festivals, traditions, customs, and rituals**, encouraging a deeper connection with India's vibrant and diverse cultural heritage. This programme aims to inspire young minds to engage with and preserve cultural traditions through an artistic lens.

Chapter	Date	Description
Srinagar	29th Oct 2024	Held at Government Boys H.S. School, Soura, the event focused on Kashmiri intangible heritage.
Nagaland (Dimapur)	8th Nov 2024	9 schools participated with 38 students from classes 7-9 in attendance. The event took place at Nagaland Bamboo Resource Centre (NBRC). A total of 2 hours was given for the poster making and 30 minutes to write their accompanying essays.
Bilaspur	18th Nov 2024	The National Poster Competition 2024 was conducted with participation from 16 schools, 115 students. It was conducted at Deoki Nandan Girls Higher Secondary School, Bilaspur.
Anantapur	21st Nov 2024	180 students took part in the competition organised at Anantapuramu District Museum. Asst. Collector Sri B. Vinuthna was invited as the Chief Guest.
Varanasi	23rd Nov 2024	INTACH poster-making competition happened at Odeon with the attendance of 12 schools and 107 students.
Dharwad	23rd Nov 2024	80 students from various schools from Hubli-Dhrawad participated in the Celebrating India competition conducted by Dharwad Chapter.
Raipur	2nd Dec 2024	The competition was hosted at Govt. J N Pandey H S School in which 119 students from 8 schools took part. Mr. C H Behar (IAS) was invited as the Chief Guest who spoke on Chhattisgarh's living heritage.
Mizoram (Aizawl)	10th Dec 2024	31 students of 9 schools participated in the Celebrating India competition held at DIET, Aizawl. The programme was inaugurated by Pi Angela Zothanoui, Director of School Education.
Mahoba	14th Dec 2024	The competition saw the participation of 100 students. The presence of multiple distinguished guests graced the event.
Bhubaneswar	13th, 15th, 18th Dec 2024	The competition was conducted in 4 different schools with 90 students participating. Chapter Convener Mr Anil Dhir attended all the competitions.
Jamnagar	14th Dec 2024	70 students from six schools participated in the competition organised at Summair Sports Club. Shri Yagneshbhai Rathod, architect was invited as the Guest Speaker.
Nagpur	15 th December 2024	The event was conducted across all age groups from classes nursery to 12 th . 120 students from 16 schools took part. The middle school children drew posters based on the theme of the competition.
Gorakhpur	15th Dec 2024	Held at M.G. Inter College, the event had 80 students. Chief guest delivered a lecture on conserving intangible heritage.

Guntur	17th Dec 2024	The event was conducted at the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Auditorium.
Ambala	20th Dec 2024	The INTACH Ambala Chapter organized a National Poster Making Competition at Arya Girls College. The event saw 123 students from 22 schools. A short quiz on festivals and traditions was conducted.
Ayodhya	22nd Dec 2024	Conducted at JB Academy, the event hosted 131 students from 14 schools. Students explored traditional festivals like Saryu Aarti, Ram Vivah, and Kartik Ekadashi through posters and essays.
Solapur	4th Jan 2025	Conducted at Annappa Kadadi High School, 142 students from 15 schools participated. Shri. H. B. Jaamdar, a teacher at B. F. Damani High School was invited as subject expert for the event. Life Member Prof. N.S. Katikar, Co-Conveners Ar. Pushpanjali Katikar and Ar. Shveta Kothavale helped organize and conduct the event.
Udaipur	9th Jan 2025	Conducted at Central Public School, four students from Maharana Mewar Public School participated. Guests for the event were Mr. Gaurav Singhvi (Convener), Mr. Sushil Dashora (Co-Convener) and other chapter members.
Kolkata	10th Jan 2025	The competition was held at the library of Apeejay School, Park Street.
Jodhpur	10th Jan 2025	The Celebrating India competition was held at the historic Panchkunda Chhatris of Mandor in Jodhpur. 111 students from 9 schools took part in it. Principal of Mahatma Gandhi Eng. Med. School Mr. Ratansingh Champawat was invited as the Chief Guest.
Murshidabad	10th Jan 2025	28 students from eight schools participated organized at Berhampore. The write-ups were written in English as well as Bangla.
Balasore	12th Jan 2025	The competition was conducted at Siddhi Vinayak Public School 56 students from 10 schools participated. Mr. Suhanshu Panda, principal of the host school addressed the students.
Malerkotla	13 th January 2025	Nine schools participated, with 82 students creating posters on local heritage.
Nashik	14th Jan 2025	Held at Sarkar Wada, 65 students from 5 schools participated. Short films made by students MET College of Architecture were showcased depicting the cultural heritage of India. Artists Priyanka Pande and Shreyas Garge were invited as the Chief Guest.
Patiala	18th Jan 2025	Held at Aurobindo International School, 41 students from 5 schools participated. The Director of the Aurobindo International School Sh. Jatinder Paul inaugurated the event.

Durg Bhilai	18th Jan 2025	41 students from various schools participated in the Celebrating India competition organized at Shri Sankaracharya Vidyalaya. Padmashree Domar Singh Kunwar, the renowned dancer was invited as the Chief Guest.
Burhanpur	18th Jan 2025	118 students from 12 schools participated in the Celebrating India competition held at Hotel Ambar and Holiday Resort. Mr. Pancham Garhwal, well known artist was invited as Guest of Honour.
Alwar	22nd Jan 2025	It was organized in Agarwal Dharamshala and saw the participation of around 100 students.
Amritsar	22 nd January 2025	Held at Bhai Vir Singh Niwas Asthan, the competition saw 80 students from various schools. Chief guest historian Surendra Kochar praised the initiative.
Hooghly	23rd Jan 2025	The event was conducted at Chandernagore Banga Vidyalaya.
Vadodara	24th Jan 2025	The competition was organized at Nalanda International School.
Thanjavur	25th Jan 2025	Around 203 students from 7 schools in and around Thanjavur participated in the program.
Visakhapatnam	27th Jan 2025	Held at Hawa Mahal, 157 students from 20 schools participated.
Barmer	27th Jan 2025	Celebrating India competition was organised at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Pachpadra. 93 students from eight schools participated. Additional Dist. Education Officer Shri Jethamal Rathore addressed the students.
Calicut	27th Jan 2025	The Poster & Essay Competition was attended by 71 students from 11 schools.
Sirohi	28th Jan 2025	Ajit Vidya Mandir hosted the poster and essay competition in which 107 students from 15 schools participated. Mr. Subhash Chand Rawal, retd. Lecturer was invited as the guest speaker.
Saraipali	28th Jan 2025	Both urban and rural schools participated in the competition held at Atmanand Shashkiya Eng. Med. School (SAGES). 121 students from 10 schools participated.
Warangal	28th Jan 2025	Conducted at SR Prime School, 182 students from two schools participated.
Salem	29th Jan 2025	74 students from eight schools took part in the competition. Six differently abled students also participated.
Kangra	1st Feb 2025	Event organised at Govt. High School Sidhbari where 91 students from 10 schools took part. Mr. Raghav Guleria, owner of Nandpur Guler Fort was invited as the Chief Guest.

Wai	1st Feb 2025	Hosted at Kalpataru Mangal Karyalay, 53 students from 7 schools participated.
Chennai	1st Feb 2025	Hosted at Sri Sankara Vidyashramam, 112 students from 20 schools participated. Historian Dr. Pradeep Chakravarthy spoke on South Indian heritage.
Faridkot	3rd Feb 2025	Eight schools participated in the event organized by INTACH. Convener Prof. Baltej Singh Brar along with other members, and school principals and dedicated teachers, contributed their time and effort to ensure the event's success.
Gurgaon	4th Feb 2025	Held at Delhi Public School, 111 students from 21 schools participated. The competition focused on India's festivals, traditions, and customs.
Kadapa	5th Feb 2025	119 students from 10 schools participated in the programme.
Kasaragod	17th Jan & 6th Feb 2025	The competition was done in three phases with the first one being held at Govt. Higher Sec. School Kunhimangalam in which 35 students participated followed by 15 students in KPRGSGHSS Kalliaseri. In the third phase, 115 students took part which was organised at KKN Pariyaram Memorial GVHSS.
Vijaypur	8th Feb 2025	Held at Dr. P.G. Halakatti Research Centre, the event had 77 students from 9 high schools. Assistant Director of Kannada and Culture inaugurated the event.
Palakkad	9th Feb 2025	The event was conducted in Sarada Krishna Iyer Memorial Library.
Mayurbhanj	9th Feb 2025	The competition took place at Maharishi Public school, Baripada. Many students successfully attended the poster-making competition and saw participation of multiple schools across the region.
Santiniketan	30th Jan & 11th Feb 2025	Two-phase event held at Patha Bhavana & Goalpara Tanayendra Vidyalaya. Enthusiastic participation from rural schools in Birbhum District.
Kodaikanal	12th Feb 2025	The competition was organized at Zion International School which saw the attendance of 100 students. Ms. Kanchana Jeyathilager, renowned author was invited as the Chief Guest.
Karauli	12th Feb 2025	147 students from 15 schools participated in the Celebrating India competition at Bhanwarvilas Marriage Garden. HECS coordinator from Karauli, Mr. Rajendra Diwan congratulated all the students for participating.

Madurai	12th Feb 2025	Hosted at Mahatma School, 130 students from 14 schools participated. The event was organised and conducted by Ms. Hema Arun, Convener and Ms. D. Nalini. Mr. S.A.V Ilanchezhian, professor, was invited as the Chief Guest.
Jalandhar	13 th February 2025	Held at Army Public School Beas, 80 students from 7 schools took part. Overall, the competition helped promote cultural awareness and appreciation
Jamshedpur	14th Feb 2025	The competition was held at Amadubi Rural Tourism Center, Dhalbhumgarh, to promote cultural education.
Jhalawar	15th Feb 2025	72 students from 8 public and govt. Schools of the city participated at Immanuel Sr. Sec. School. Dr. Madhusudan Acharya was invited as the Guest speaker.
Ajmer	16th Feb 2025	The competition was attended by 107 students from 17 schools, organized at DAV Senior Secondary School.
Mandi	19th Feb 2025	70 students from 10 schools participated in the competition organised at Govt. Bijai Sr. Sec. School. Satluj Jal Vidyut Yojana Chief Gen. Manager and social activist Sh. Harish Kumar Sharma presided over the function.
Trivandrum	1st Mar 2025	It was held at Sai Trivandrum Golf Club.
Coimbatore	14 th March 2025	It was organised at Viveklayala's Vichara World school. The event was graciously hosted by Sushri Aishwarya Rao, Director of the Vivekalaya Group of Institutions. 108 students from 6 schools participated in the competition. INTACH Coimbatore chapter Convener, members and the principal of the school were in attendance.
Dhar	16 th March 2025	The competition was organized in Dhar with 32 students and 9 schools participating. The Head of the Department of Painting Faculty of Government, Maharaja Bhoj College and Dr Sadhna Chauhan graced the event with the Chapter Convener and other members present.
Mahbubnagar	Different phases	In total, 17 mandals of the district were covered. 556 students from 104 schools participated.
Kapurthala		It was organised at M.G.N. Public School and saw the presence of Advocate Kanwaljit Singh Ahluwalia, Mr. Davinder Pal Singh, Forest Officer, Kapurthala and Mr. Parashar from Dreams Academy. Mr. Harbir Inder Singh Randhawa, Honorable Member of Guru Nanak Khalsa Group Educational Institution was present as the special guest. 9 schools and 86 students participated in the competition.
Taran Tarn		It was organised at Majha Public school which saw the attendance of 5 schools and 60 students.

Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Multiple dates	The Celebrating India competition was conducted across the islands. Entries were received from far flung places such as Little Andaman, Car Nicobar, Bambooflat as well as Port Blair.
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Heritage, Craft & Community Division (HCCD)

INTACH UTSAV

28th - 31st January '25

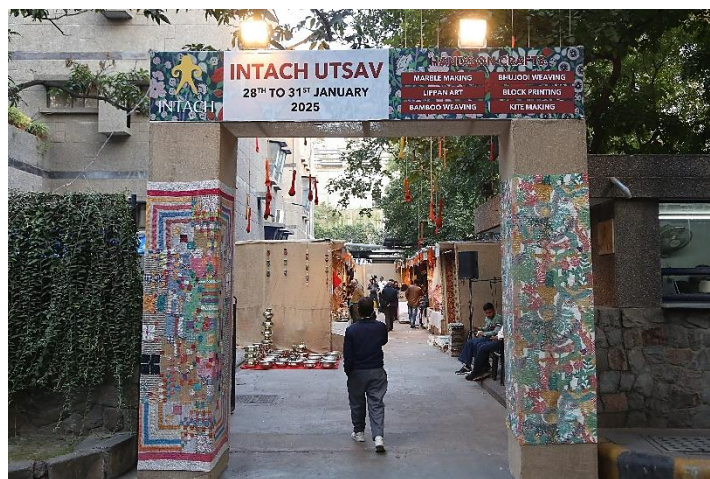
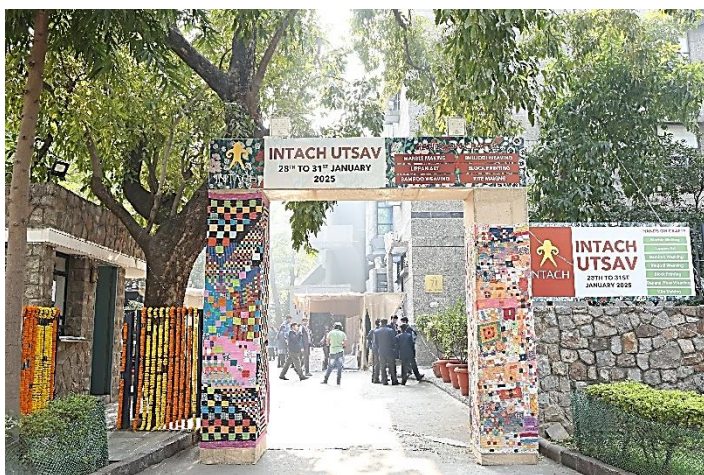
INTACH, in the last four decades, has tirelessly worked towards the conservation and preservation of the vast cultural resources of India. The organization has fostered many initiatives to ensure the longevity, preservation and promotion of the cultural assets of the country while simultaneously keeping the long-term needs and development of the associated communities in its ambit.

The INTACH Utsav, an annual event started in 2018, is an extension of the ethos of the organization giving a platform to the unrecognized, small artisanal communities to exhibit their products which are the tangible evidence of the craftsmanship and knowledge system that has been nurtured through generations.

The 5th edition of the INTACH Utsav was held from 28th - 31st January '25 at the Delhi headquarters with successful contributions from the INTACH Chapters and divisions in various capacities. The Utsav gave the visitors a glimpse of the rich tapestry of India through various stalls, lectures, heritage walks and hands on craft demonstrations giving an insight of the intricate process involved in making a varied range of traditional crafts synonymous with the identity of India.

FACADE:

The facade of the INTACH premises was adorned with the Siddi quilts, an ode to the Afro- Indian Siddi Community. The quilts have been stitched with bits and patches by the women of the said community using running stitches.



INAUGURAL SESSION:

The inaugural session was steeped in tradition with Maj. Gen. (Retd.) L.K. Gupta, Chairman-INTACH and Mr. Ravindra Singh (IAS, Retd.) Member Secretary- INTACH lighting the lamp and addressing the artisans and the INTACH staff. It was succeeded by Mani Kirshani and Sabita Sisa of Godaba tribe, Koraput, Odisha blessing the event with a captivating song in their native language to commence the Utsav.



CRAFT STALLS:



HCCD screened and selected a total of 38 artisans from across the country to exhibit their craft and products at the Utsav. We encourage lone artisans practicing unusual and unknown crafts to participate in our Utsav. The stalls were a balanced mix of handloom and handicraft products with the artisans suggested by INTACH Chapters and some supported by HCCD through skill and design development workshops. The emphasis was to bring forth the lost crafts to the public domain and support lone craftspeople and heritage crafts.

The Utsav had an eclectic display of cloth and paper products from Shivpuri, Lippan Artwork, Bhujodhi from Kutch, durries from Kutch, Kasota handloom from Kutch, Banarasi silk products from Azamgarh, silk handloom from Varanasi, mirror work embroidered products from Barmer, Ajrakh printed products from Barmer; Jute products from Uttarakhand; Sabori Natural Dye from Rajsamand; Panja Durries from Mirzapur; Loin Loom Weaving from Arunachal Pradesh; crochet products from Mon Ami Foundation; Maheshwari Silk from Indore; Display of Kerang Fabric weaving from Koraput; Block Printing from Delhi; Kagzipura Paper Products from Aurangabad; Bamboo products from Nagaland; Junagadh, Bead Work from Gujarat; Glass Bead products from Hathras; Terracotta objects made using Molela craft from Rajsamand; Yellow Stone products from Jaislamer; Wooden Toys from Varanasi; Etikoppaka Toys from Kottam; Gem Stone from Rajasthan; Iron Craft from Bastar; Kolhapuri Leather chappals from Kolhapur; Kohabar Art and Patna Kalam from Bihar; Thatera utensils from Punjab; Kite Makers from Rampur; , Gond Painting, Madhya Pradesh; Banana Fiber products from Hampi; Gadiya Lohar products from Tonk; Cocoon Craft, Manipur and sheesham products from Bijnor.



HERITAGE WALKS- DELHI CHAPTER:

The Delhi Chapter helped organize heritage walks to interesting sites across Delhi on all four days of the Utsav. Right from Lodhi Gardens (28th January), Feroz Shah Kotla (29th January) to Safdarjung's Tomb (30th January) and Humayun's Tomb (31st January), the walks were led by renowned experts and historians revealing intriguing details and perspectives about the respective sites leaving the participants in a historical trance. The walks were over subscribed and very popular part of the Utsav.



GUIDED WALKTHROUGH - HCCD:

Ms. Vandana Bindu Manchanda (Head, HCCD) and Ms. Radhika Malhotra (Project Associate, HCCD) took turns to take school students, college students as well as other visitors through the stalls and craft demonstration at the Utsav. They explained to them about the various crafts at display, their origin, significance and the need to document and preserve them. It also gave the students an opportunity to interact with the artisans and participate in the craft making process being demonstrated by the artisans stationed here. The reactions from the students were heartwarming with many students not wanting to leave the Utsav and were heard pleading with their teachers. Some students spent all their time learning the crafts from the craftspeople and were left fascinated.





WALK TO THE CONSERVATION LAB: A& M H DIVISION

Ms. Merrin Anil (Centre Coordinator, ICI Delhi) led the walkthrough the conservation lab. She gave insights into the wide range of artefacts like paintings, sculptures, textiles, etc. being conserved at the lab by trained conservators to the visitors.

TALKS :

1. Lecture on Vernacular Architecture by T.S. Randhawa delivered on 28th January '25 traced his journey documenting the eclectic features, materials and the craftsmanship of the Indian natives across the country.



2. Ms. Sentila T. Yanger dived into the intricate world of Crafts of Nagaland through her talk on 29th January '25. She talked about the resilience as well as the various facets of bamboo, an integral part of the Naga lifestyle, especially in the realm of craft.

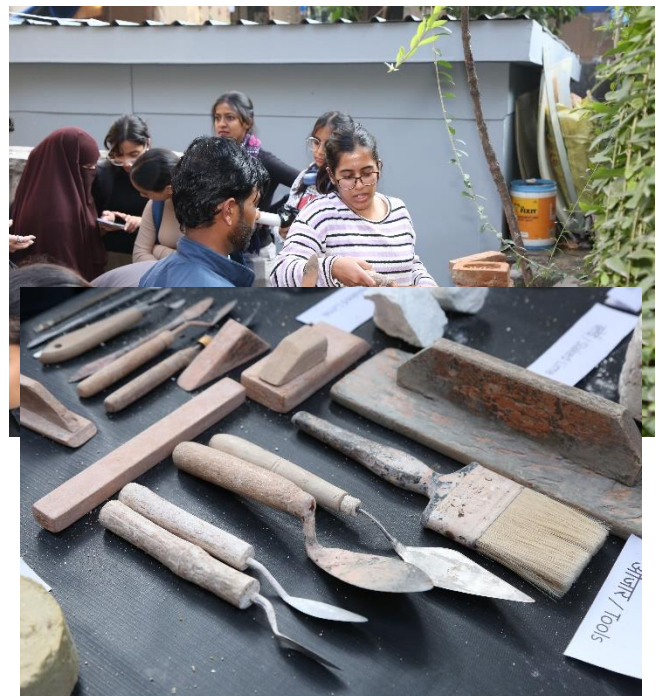


3. An intriguing lecture on the Traditional Temple Towns in Tamil Nadu by Dr. S. Suresh on 30th January'25 revolved around the sacred connection between the deity and the natives living in proximity to the temple complexes.



LIME WORKSHOP- AH DIVISION:

The AH Division conducted a two-day Lime Workshop from 29th- 30th January'25 training and educating architecture students and other keen visitors about the uses of lime, its significance, process and materials used to make lime plaster.



CRAFT DEMONSTRATIONS:

The greatest attraction of the Utsav remained the craft demonstrations conducted by the artisans representing the intricate process of producing traditional goods. The Molela artisans engaged the crowd, especially school students, with clay molding hands on demonstration while the kite makers from Uttar Pradesh demonstrated the process of making a kite from scratch. The handmade paper makers from Kagzipura left the visitors amazed with the centuries old paper making technique while on the other hand, people watched Mr. Abdul Sattar turn glass sticks into marvelous beads and bangles. However, it was the tribal ladies, Mani Kirshani and Sabita Sisa from Koraput, Odisha who, through their demonstration of weaving the Kerang fabric, drew visitors from all walks of life.



CERTIFICATE DISTRIBUTION:

The Utsav culminated with the 38 artisans being felicitated with a participation certificate each on 31st January, 2025. Mr. Ravindra Singh (IAS, Retd.), Member Secretary- INTACH and Ms. Vandana Bindu Manchanda, Head, HCCD visited each stall and interacted with the artisans while awarding them with the certificate.



VISITOR PROFILE:

The Utsav garnered a huge footfall with students, officials and other visitors attending the event from the following prestigious institutions:

1. US Embassy
2. World Bank
3. WWF
4. IIAD
5. Greenfields School, Safdarjung Enclave
6. Sardar Patel Vidyalaya
7. Modern School, Barakhamba
8. Army Public School, Dhaula Kuan
9. Army Public School, Shankar Vihar
10. Shriram Millennium School, Faridabad
11. The Mann School
12. UNDP
13. IGNCA

FEEDBACK:

- Congratulations on the excellent work that you are doing in preserving India's rich and historic crafts, that would languish without your and INTACH's support. - *Visitors from the U.S. Embassy*
- The event was incredibly enriching, and we truly valued the opportunity to engage with traditional crafts and the lime workshop in such a meaningful way. - *Indian Institute of Art & Design (IIAD)*
- This Utsav has helped me connect to the craftspeople in a personal way, 'apna pan hai yahan' - *School teacher*
- A good learning experience for children – *The Mann School*
- To participate and collaborate next time at INTACH UTSAV as it would be an engaging opportunity for school children- *Shriram Millennium School, Faridabad*

SOCIAL MEDIA IMPACT:

The HCCD Team used the its Instagram page to promote the INTACH Utsav through recurrent post and stories. The programme schedule was widely circulated which resulted in a huge footfall at the Utsav. A huge number of college students as well as influencers made reels and post about the craft stalls, demonstrations and described their experience, which furthermore intrigued the interest of people. One of the most successful posts about the Utsav uploaded on Instagram received 67 thousand views reflecting the wide reach and the impact of promotion of the event on social media.

Articles

1. Role of Women in Heritage Conservation in the Indian Context

The role of women in the conservation of cultural heritage is multifaceted and extremely important. If we look from a historical perspective also, we will find that women have been involved in the conservation, transmission and promotion of cultural heritage, that too often in ways that are not always visible at first glance or not formally recognized. We can easily understand the role of women in heritage conservation from the detailed discussion that is being done ahead.

Guardians of Traditional Knowledge

Women are often the primary carriers of traditional knowledge, which includes folk songs, music, dance, crafts and culinary traditions. They play an important role in transmitting these practices to the next generation in the family (and society as well), thereby ensuring the continuity of our cultural heritage.

Artisans and Craftsmen

In many cultures, women are the primary producers of traditional crafts, textile weaving, sewing embroidery and artifacts. Their skills, dedication and creativity are vital to maintaining, reviving and upgrading traditional art forms.

Community Leaders and Activists

Women often play leadership roles in community-based conservation efforts. They play a constructive role in advocating for the preservation of traditional practices, rituals, traditional medicine methods and indigenous knowledge as well as lobbying within the family and society to protect and promote their cultural heritage.

Teachers and Mentors

Women not only serve as primary educators in their families and society but also serve as role models for the new generation of their daughters and daughters-in-law. They teach children about their cultural heritage, inculcate in them the high ideals of society and family. They also mentor young men and girls, ensuring that traditional skills and knowledge are passed on to them and enriched so that the traditional knowledge that has been passed down from generations does not get lost. The knowledge imparted by mothers to children from childhood is what makes them memorable great men in the society when they grow up, such as Chhatrapati Shivaji, Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi, Abhimanyu and Maharana Pratap.

Researchers and scholars

In today's context, women also make very important contributions to the academic study of cultural heritage. Now they do research shoulder to shoulder with men, document traditions and publish works that highlight the importance of preserving cultural diversity, of which our country India is a living example.

Policy makers and advocates

In the modern era, women holding influential positions can shape policies and programs that support the preservation of cultural heritage. We see many aware women advocating for the inclusion of cultural heritage in the development agenda and the protection of cultural rights.

Cultural entrepreneurs

Women are increasingly getting involved in cultural entrepreneurship, creating businesses that promote and sustain traditional crafts, arts and practices. This not only helps in preserving cultural heritage but also provides economic opportunities for the society and the family. In this context, the use of traditional spices and food items prevalent in Indian society is a living example of how many women in our society today are engaged in business based on traditional food.

Guardians of Intangible Heritage

Women in heritage conservation are the custodians of intangible cultural heritage in Indian society, such as oral traditions, rituals and social practices. Their role in maintaining these traditions is crucial for the identity and continuity of various caste societies.

Shivraj Pal Singh
Co-Convener, Karauli Chapter

2. The Vibrant And Melodious Life of Jharkand Tribes

Bharat is home to almost one hundred million tribal people. Tribal communities have been an integral part of Indian society since time immemorial. We find their reference even in Ramayana and Mahabharata. In Ramayana, 'Shabari', is an Adivasi devotee of Shri Ram, who offered 'Ber' to him after tasting each one of them, which he accepted graciously.

The tribal people throughout the country are rich in tradition, cultural heritage. Despite some regional variation, they share several common traits, including living in geographical isolation, being more homogenous and more self-contained as compared to non-tribal groups. The areas inhabited by the tribal population are mainly those, which need attention as far as development is concerned. The two main areas of tribal settlements are the North-eastern region, bordering China and Burma; and the tableland and plains of central and southern region, which is home to almost 80 percent of the total tribal population.

One such state is Jharkhand, which as per 2001 census, has thirty Scheduled Tribes, such as Munda, Oraon, Santhal, Ho, Gond, Bhumij, Birhor (to name a few), on its record.

Tribal are basically nature worshippers and do not follow any religion. Their houses are aesthetically painted, with each tribe having a unique style and pattern. Music and dance is a way of life for them. An interesting fact about them is that, when a child is born, to check his auditory response, loud sound with copper plate is made. The startled child cries, and the whole village believes that a new prospective artist is born.

The biggest challenge for the forest dwelling tribal was the danger of being attacked by the wild predators.

As goes the common saying "necessity is the mother of invention", so through trial and error, the tribals realized that the only way to scare off the predators was by burning lamps and making loud sounds. Initially utensils were used to make loud noises, later drums were innovated. The sound of the drums not only kept the wild animals at bay, but the rhythmic beats were also pleasing to the ears of the inhabitants. This encouraged them to make more of such loud sound producing instruments like Dhak, Dhol, Dholak, Karah, ChodhChodhi, Rabka, Bhair, Narsingha, Tamak etc. The tribals started enjoying it. While men folk played the instruments, the women would swing to its rhythmic beats; and this would go on through the larger part of night. This became a customary thing for them, serving dual purpose at a time – entertainment as well as keeping wild animals at bay. To give it a more formal setting, Akhara was decorated in the middle of the village, where all men, women and children would gather in the evening. Thus, started the journey of the making of tribal musical instruments.

Then as an experiment, they started imitating the sound of Mother Nature, like the roaring and the gurgling of clouds, the rolling of stones from the mountains, the breaking

of branches from the trees, the harsh and soft sound of animals and birds respectively, the unceasing drum-like sound of rivers and springs. This was enough to put the mind behind making the various other musical instruments with various different sounds like Mandar, Bansuri, Shehnai, Murli, Mohanbansi, Tirio, Tohila, Kendra, Banam, Bhuan, Ektara, Sarangi, HechkaRegra, Ghungroo, Sekoye, Ghant etc.

Thus, the focus shifted to the instruments with milder sounds. These instruments were then played along with the loud instruments as a band, which made the villagers swing and dance to their tune.

Making musical instruments was the collective effort of the craftsmen of the village, e.g. blacksmith made the shell for the drum, the cobbler prepared the leather to cover it, Tanti or a cloth merchant gave rope to tie taut, Teli ensured that the oil kept the leather soft. The carpenter made the sticks for playing the instruments. The potter cooked the shell for the mandar, and dyes the leather. This boosted their economy as well.

Gradually the song and dance, along with musical instruments, became a part of their daily activities and festivities, be it child birth, wedding ceremony or the change of season. If not for anything else, it was a perfect companion for one's solitary moment. Since music among the tribals is not the exclusive property of its individual members, but of the community as a whole; they generally perform in groups, and take pride in it.

Akhara is both Gurukul and Guru, as folk music is the medium for the tribals to express their emotions, tell their stories, and pass down their history and wisdom to future generations. The music passed down the generations is the testament of the rich cultural heritage of Jharkhand, and continue to be a source of cultural pride and identity for the local communities. However, with the change in time and taste, variations in the current form are visible.

The music is often accompanied by dance and is characterized by its simplicity, rhythmic vitality, and deep connection to nature.

In Jharkhand, the only instruments women play are munghroo, thechka, kartal, and cymbal along with dance. Playing musical instruments is mainly the domain of men folk.

TYPES OF TRIBAL MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Tribal musical instruments can basically be divided in three categories:

1. String instruments – In which sound is produced by rubbing or piercing a string. Strings or wires are played by elephant teeth, fingers, strikers, wood etc. Banam, Ektara, Buang, Tuila are some of the string instruments.



The instruments that have leather overlaid under the strings are played with bow made of horse hair.

2. Aerophone instrument – They are played by blowing wind by mouth e.g. flute, singa, murali, shehnai, madanberi etc.

3. Percussion instruments – These are loud sounding instruments, where an oval or circular shell is pierced by leather and played by either the palm and fingers or by sticks. These percussion instruments help in maintaining the rhythm of the song. Mandar, Dhak, Dhol, Nagara, Tamak fall in this category.

String Instruments (Tata Vadya or Chordophones):

Kendra: It is a popular stringed instrument in the Chota Nagpur region, producing gentle vocals. This is a wooden instrument, made with bamboo attached with coconut shell which is covered with parchment. The resonation box is covered with the hide of monitor lizard. It has one string and is played by drawing a curved bamboo bow across its string. It is also known as the ‘violin of Jharkhand’ and resembles Ektara.

The instrument mainly produces melancholic notes, resembling the sound of a crying baby hence, according to some tribals it was initially named as ‘Kanduni’ for the reason stated above, but gradually came to be known as ‘Kendra’. It is mainly played with tribal songs or Jhumur songs.

This instrument gained popularity in 12 century CE, when Sanskrit was declared the official language of the then Utkal kingdom (the northern and eastern part of present day Odisha), which was not the language of a common man. It was after this, that the jogis or sages belonging to Nath sect started performing folk and devotional songs while playing Kendra. They went house to house with dried gourd container for rice, and played Kendra while singing folk and devotional songs, and accepted food as alms. Thus it gained popularity in the rural hinterland.

“Essentially Kendara music in its original form was meant for the poor and the rustic. The simplicity of its form and deliverance makes it easily understandable. Kendara was, for long, the medium of mass education and rural entertainment with its emphasis on social themes and mythological songs. It is now reviving after the end of the pandemic,” says one of the 64-year-old Kendra players.



Banam:

Size (cms): 75(H) x 15(W) x 17(D)

Size (inches): 29.5(H) x 6(W) x 6.5(D)

The word Banam is derived from the Santhali words “Bana” and “Am”. “Bana” means “drawing towards oneself” and “Am” is “the

self". The Banam, therefore, is an instrument that "draws the best towards oneself."

The legend surrounding the making of first Banam is quite interesting and reflects the simplicity of the people of the community. According to the myth, an old couple had seven sons and a daughter. After the death of the couple the children moved to the forest. The brothers went out hunting every morning and the sister looked after the home and cooked meals for them.

One day while cutting a green leafy vegetable, *Sin Arak*, the sister cut her finger and few drops of blood fell on the vegetable she was cooking. The food tasted really delicious that day. On questioning and trying to find the reason behind the food tasting different, the girl shared the incident with her brothers. This made the eldest brother think that if few drops of his sister's blood could make the food so tasty, then her flesh would be really delectable. He plotted to kill his sister and decided to share the flesh among all seven brothers.

One day while the sister was climbing a tall tree, he immediately seized the opportunity and trapped her surrounding the tree by thorns on all sides. Then he shot the first arrow, followed by the other brothers. When the youngest brother, who was dearly attached to his sister, refused to do so, he was threatened to meet the same fate. So he shot the last arrow and with it the sister fell down. Her body was then cut in seven parts and shared among all the seven brothers. While rest of the brothers ate their share, the youngest one took his share to the pond and wept bitterly. On hearing his lament the fish and crabs came out of the pond and enquired about the reason for his sorrow. On knowing the complete story, they sympathized and suggested him to bury his share under the mount of ant hill.

The boy did as suggested and after sometime a tree with fragrant flowers *Gulanj Baha* or *Gula Cin* grew at that spot. One day a yogi, who frequently visited the place to pluck the flowers from that tree, heard a melodious sound, as if the tree was talking to him in a human voice. He cut off a branch from the tree and made the first *Dhodro Banam* from it.

Literally, *Dhodro Banam* means a 'hollow instrument'. When he started playing it, a melodious, human like voice emanated from it. Thus, Santhals got *Gulanj Baha* tree, and from that the musical instrument Banam. The myth seems to be as real to the community, as the tree and the musical instrument. This story shows a close man - nature relationship.

The most interesting fact about *Gulanj Baha* (where *Baha* means flower), is that although the tree has seeds but they never germinate. According to their belief, it signifies the presence of the little girl, who was never given the opportunity to bloom and procreate. When a section of the branch is planted, it has the power to go deep down into the ground and nourish itself.

Santhals consider Banam to be an extension of their own self. Considering it to be a living being, it has various figurative representations mainly of four women in a row in a dancing pose, dedicated to the fertility of the earth or two women decorating the top of the instrument. The newer versions of Banam also depict the fish, birds and mammals. Some also depict the family- such as the father, mother and child or the horse and elephant riders or the farmer riding the cart. Usually *dhol*, *nagara* and *shehnai* accompany the Banam and in some Banam this too is depicted on the top.

In the Banam belonging to Christian Adivasis, these figures on the top of Banam are re-interpreted and represented as a naked man and a woman depicting Adam and Eve.

Banam has anatomy of human beings. The instrument is divided into head, ears, neck, chest and stomach. They believe that just as human body is made up of five elements i.e, Earth, air, water, fire and ether, so is this musical instrument. The *bohok* or the head is



always on the top and represents the space or the sky. The *hotok* or neck and *korum* or chest are associated with respiration and represent air. The *lac* or stomach represents both fire and water; as stomach is associated with hunger hence fire, and the womb is associated with discharge, hence water. The string is considered the *pran* or the breath of the instrument. It is the life giving force of the instrument, and the living body that unites and links all the five elements of human life together. The instrument represents the body or the earth – the earth is associated by fertility, and fertility is associated by female. Hence it is in a female form, but is played by men folk.

Banam is constructed out of a single wooden log of *Gulanj Baha* tree, which is divided into four parts. It is a simple instrument with just one string, and played with a bow. The construction of the instrument begins with the shaping of *Banam lac* or the stomach which is oval in shape and hollowed out. The *Banam korum* or the chest is of the same size, hollow and rectangular in shape. The *Banam hotok* or the neck is narrow but hollow from inside to

facilitate gripping. The *Banam botok* or head is cubical in shape and its posterior part is hollowed out. A hole is made in the head so that a string can pass through it. The string

is attached to a peg on the side of the head like an ear. It is held vertically while playing, unlike violin. On the whole it may be the regressive form of Sarinda.

The shared characteristics of Sarinda and Dhodro Banam are their elongated body and rectangular peg box. But Dhodro Banam differs in the way it is played and secondly, the decorative figures on the top of the Banam face the audience.

There are various other types of Banam apart from Dhodro Banam. One is Huka or Reta Banam, which could be made simply with a coconut shell body, covered with the skin of local water snake, a bamboo neck and a wooden ridge. It has 2 or 3 wires. The resonator of the Huka Banam is held closer to the chest with the neck of the instrument pointing outwards while playing, and Dhodro Banam is held vertically.

The other one being Phet Banam which looks like a dotara and has 3 or 4 strings. This instrument is more popular among the youngsters in recent times and is in sync with the young Santhals.

The Santhals have great faith in the great magical powers of Banam. They believe it as a medium to connect with the supernatural being *Bongas*, (whom they worship out of fear) and with whose blessings they can achieve the impossible. Thus the belief of considering Banam as an embodiment of themselves by Santhals, has elevated this artefact to be revered and worshipped. This inanimate piece of object is considered animate by the community and hence they are said to bury their musical instruments with respect. However some of them have found way into the museum and some have been passed down the generations and kept alive.

However Durga Prasad Mahato, a 58-year-old who runs the Banam Training Centre, revealed the lack of student enrolments over the past 18 months. "We have been idle, as no one has shown interest in learning Banam for quite some time. Our youth are more inclined toward modern music played on their mobile phones. This heritage is on the brink of extinction and will fade away once the last surviving artisans depart from this world," he said.

Madhab Chandra Hansda, a 62-year-old Banam musician with four decades of experience performing on stage, said even the audience's interest has waned over the years. He implores the state government and private organizations to step forward and make efforts to preserve this vanishing legacy.

Buang: It is a primitive Santhal drone chordophone that is crafted using dried bottle-gourd which acts as a resonator, a length of bamboo, rope and hemp. Traditionally Buang was made using wooden pegs and rope. There is no specific way of crafting Buang, however villagers use the available resources and their creativity to craft the instrument. It is a favourite instrument of Santhals.

Traditionally a bottle gourd (or Hotoh in Santhali), approximately 2 feet long is cut and hollowed from the narrow side. From one side of the bamboo, at the distance of about one third of the approximately 3 feet long horizontal bamboo, this gourd is secured by nut and bolt, such that the cut side of the gourd hangs down, while the closed side remains attached to the bamboo. Originally wooden pegs were used instead of nuts and bolts. Bamboo has to be firmly aligned with the top of the gourd. To secure the bamboo further to the gourd a mix of powdered straw, (Indian frankincense and the resin of Sal tree) known as dhuno, and the sprinkling of sindoor is prepared, burnt and filled into the spaces which are required to be sealed. Next, two sticks from Karam tree (*Adina Cordifolia*) are carefully chosen, and dried, such that they form a bow, with one stick angular at about 135 degrees. The shorter stick is drilled 4 inches from one side of the bamboo and the other angular one is plugged tightly into the open end of the bamboo.



A hemp rope is then tied around the top of the curved stick and knotted at the other end, and then pulled taut across the other end of the bamboo where it is tied to the top of the tuning peg. It is then decorated with the tassels of bright kite paper or shiny tinsel paper. Earlier tassels of cloth or white paper were used to decorate Buangs.

The instrument is played by plucking the middle of the string in rhyme with the beat of the drums and a deep 'buang' sound emerges. Possibly therefore it had been named as Buang, since it produces only one sound.

This instrument is exclusively associated with Dasae or Dnasae festival which falls in the month of Ashwin (September or October) coinciding with the festival of Durga

Puja. Incidentally the month and the festival both are referred as Dasae by Santhals.

According to Santhal folklore, Dasae is the lamentation of the slaying of their first king Mahishasur, also known as Hudur Durga. It is believed that Mahishasur was killed by a woman, who later came to be known as Durga; and his men went in search of their lost king in the guise of women. To mark this day, the group of Santhal men even today dance from lanes to lanes or village to village, swaying in perfect harmony and singing Dasae songs with Kartal and Buang. They are dressed in female attire with long dhotis and turban from saris with feather on their heads. The sound of the instrument Buang is predominant in their songs and dance in Jharkhand region. There may be a possibility of folklore of Hudur Durga been woven around Buang.

The songs are the same for Dasae and Buang dances, though the traditional manner of singing and the songs are gradually fading. The tempo of the songs in this region is quite slow in comparison to that of Malda.

In one of the interviews with Outlook Traveller, Siddhartha Tagore Founder of The Management of Art Treasure of India-MATI mentions that Buang is “an instrument linked to historical narratives of rebellion and resistance. Its cultural value originates from its ability to express response and unite communities during times of upheaval. It was never played by an individual, but by a group of people who played and danced to accompany the sound of Buang. Other brass instruments and wooden sticks accompanied these instruments. Buang makes a loud humming sound.” It was not solely for entertainment purposes but for protests as well.

Tuila: It is a traditional tribal musical instrument which is rarely seen now and the efforts are underway by Tribal Cultural Society, Jamshedpur, RUMBUL and Janjatiya Kala, Sanskriti Ewam Samaj Vikas Samiti, Rahe to restore this ancient musical instrument. It is an instrument specific to Munda tribe of Jharkhand. Tuila is considered male instrument with its female compatriot being ‘Kendra’. It consists of bamboo 'neck', silk string, wooden headstock and body made up of a pumpkin.

Siddharth Tagore, founder of the Management of the Art Treasure of India (MATI) says “The Tuila instrument holds significant cultural and spiritual importance and is often believed to possess strong symbolic meanings or supernatural powers. Its design, sounds, and playing techniques were often passed down through generations and

contributed to preserving its cultural heritage.



They were mainly played by the subcategory of the Munda tribe, who are nomadic travellers. They often travelled from one forest to another forest with this instrument. Tuila has been utilized for various activities, including religious rites, rituals, entertainment, and storytelling.

Furthermore, the Tuila instrument greatly influenced the musical traditions with its significant immersion in the communities to communicate emotions, tell stories, and commemorate significant societal events.”

Tuila was played as an accompaniment by the tribal to make their music more presentable. The sound produced by this instrument is of low intensity and do not go far. This instrument was mainly played during Karama festival, and since the sound produced was generally ‘tun-tun’ hence the name given was Tuila. Another more logical explanation seems to be that ‘Tui’ in the local language of tribals mean thatch of a hut and ‘Lau’ means the gourd or a creeper plant which is grown on this kind of roof. Tuilau gradually became Tuila. It is made from the gourd, a median stick of the instrument, which is of an arm’s length of the player and a string. 3-4 feet sticks are taken and on the thicker end of the stick a half cut shell of the gourd is placed. The gourd is cut, such that the base from where it is connected to its root remains intact. The mouth of the severed half remains open and inside this half shell a metal ring is tightened with the thick silk thread in order to secure it properly.

It is played using both hands. The instrument is held with the left hand, pressing it against the left side of the chest with the pumpkin pressing against the chest. While the fingers of the left hand act as a reed, pressing the string at different places to take out various notes, the middle finger of the right hand plucks the string. The hole in the gourd base acts as a sounding board. If the player sweats, the sweat from the bare body moistens the base of the gourd and produces heavy and basal sound. To play the higher note one has to lift the gourd base from the chest. The gourd base can be loosened or tightened by twisting it. Vibration is more with a loose base.

Ektara: As the name suggests, 'Ek' means one and 'tara' means the wire i.e. single stringed drone instrument. It consists of the gourd resonator covered with leather, through which a bamboo stick about 90 cm long is inserted in the middle. A wire is drawn from the centre of the gourd shell and wrapped in a peg, inserted little short of the other end of the bamboo. The peg can be rotated and this helps in tightening or loosening the wire. The player holds the instrument in the palm of one hand such that his index finger is free to pluck the string, which produces the sound. A triangle piece of metal is also worn while playing to prevent the finger from shock.



Originally it was used in India by wandering bards and minstrels. It maintains the rhythm and provides the base as well.

It has been well documented in images of Ajanta caves as far as 4th and 5th century that this instrument was used by a singer, singing or chanting to Lord Indra as an accompaniment.

Ektara is held in upright position, gripped at the neck just above the resonator. It is played with the index finger of the same hand by plucking the string. If the person has to dance as well, then he supports the resonator by another hand.

Sarangi: The name Sarangi means hundred different colours. Though it looks similar to Banam, but its base and upper part are wider than Banam. Sarangi of Jharkhand has a curved look. While playing, the base or the sound chamber of the instrument is kept in the lap whereas the upper part rests on the shoulder.



It is handmade and generally carved out of a single block of wood. Its hollowed belly or resonator is covered with parchment. Typically it has three main strings, and sometimes fourth string is used as a drone, and all four are made of goat gut. The seventeen sympathetic strings are made of steel. It is generally played by a bow.

It is played as an accompaniment for the folk songs sung by the tribal. Though it is a folk musical instrument, yet the references of it being used in classical music from seventeenth century onwards are available. In 19th century it was commonly used to accompany dance performances.

Aerophone Instruments (Susira Vadya or Hollow Instruments):

Tirio (Flute): Playing Tirio or transverse flute is a common scene in Jharkhand specially Santhal Pargana region. Shepherds can be seen playing it while grazing their cattle.

In Santhal songs, Tirio is symbolic of romantic or erotic love, and is most popular among males. As breath flows through the delicate holes, it produces ethereal melodies that resonate with nature's whisper. It's a conduit between the player's breath and the Universe's song.

Tirio can only be made from a bamboo whose nodes are far apart and whose walls are thin. This hollow piece of bamboo is one and a half inch in diameter and two and a half to three feet long. It is cut in a manner such that the tips of the flute remain open. The diameter of the bamboo varies as it determines the fine or thick tone of the Tirio. The wider the Tirio the larger are its holes. A red hot iron rod is used to pierce the round end of the bamboo knot, at a distance of about four fingers or 2 inches from the knot. Following the similar process six more holes are made, starting with a gap of ten to twelve fingers from this hole (approximately centre) towards the end of the bamboo. Usually the distance between the blow hole and the first finger hole is equal to the first and last finger hole.

Once Tirio is ready, it is cleaned of any fluff by twig, and pouring water through it removes any bamboo particles and dust from it. Mustard oil is then rubbed on the surface and some drops are poured into the Tirio which helps in preserving and conditioning it.

It is played by blowing into the hole as if whistling. The melody of the tune is controlled by the two fingers of the left hand and four fingers of the right hand.

They are often used as accompaniment to folk songs and dances adding a melodious harmony to the music.

Tirio also played an important role in the history of Santhals. During the Santhal rebellion in 1855 it was used as a symbol of Santhal identity. Santhals were asked by their rebel leaders to hang a Tirio at the end of their village lanes in order to distinguish themselves from the diku (non tribal) inhabitants.



Murali: is also a form of flute. The number and sizes of the holes are similar but the difference lies at the end from where it is blown. While Tirio is played like a whistle, Murali is played by blowing it from one end. That end of the bamboo from where it is blown, half of it is peeled off and another wood of the same diameter is framed in such a manner that little space is left to pass the air through it. At this end, a rectangular hole is created at the distance of



two fingers from the top. Putting the splintered head in the mouth and blowing it creates a tone.

Generally Tirio and Murali are played in pairs.

Singa: Originally made from the buffalo's horn, this instrument is now made of brass or copper. It is blown from its pointed end and the broader end faces upwards and outwards towards the audience.

Initially it was played to chase the wild animals away, but now it is played in pairs during the weddings and various other festivals and ceremonies. It is an important instrument in Chhau dance. It is also used by shepherds to control their cattle.

Shehnai: This instrument is one and a half feet long, hollow piece of wood, more like Murali, except that instead of six holes as in Murali, it has seven holes to control the tune. At the mouth piece, where it is expected to be blown into, 'Panna' made from palm leaves are tied with the thread. The other end has metal or wooden flared bell which helps in making the sound loud and shrill, so that it can be heard far and wide. It is ten inches long.



It is used as the main instrument in Chhau dance, Paika dance and Natua. It is also played on various other occasions such as weddings, worshipping or even during festivals of Sadan communities. As the breath flows through it, this double reed instrument bursts forth the melodies, announcing celebration and uniting people in the shared moment of happiness.



Madanberi: It is one of the oldest instruments of Jharkand. Made up of wood, it is approx. 3-4 feet in length, with brass tube attached at the other end from where it is blown. It is played on various occasions and festivals like Chhau, along with Dhansa, Dhak. It is also played with Dhol, Sanai and Bansuri. Unlike other wind instruments, this instrument does not have any holes; hence it produces only one sound.

Percussion Instruments (Ghana Vadya or Solid Instruments):

Mandar or Tumdak: It is one of the favourite musical instruments of Jharkhand. It is three or three and a half feet bifacial drum with a bulge in the middle or slightly conical in shape and open on both ends, made of clay or wood. Both sides are covered with parchment and laced by leathers traps through leather loops at both ends. This is known as 'khol'. Usually monkey or goat skin is used for mounting. Santhali drum is approximately 60 cm in length.

The diameter of left handed end of the instrument (about 30 cm in diameter) is greater than the right handed end. Right side is loaded with black paste and left is treated with rice paste. This tuning paste or 'syahi' decreases in thickness from the centre outwards and is black in colour. This is a specialized job, as after applying each layer, the skilled worker hears the sound produced and continues doing so till the correct sound is produced. The 'syahi' is heavier than the membrane, hence produces the sound that sustains longer and is full of vigour. The smaller right side produces a high pitched sound, whereas the larger left side produces a deep bass sound.



The shell is covered all round with the leather straps, known as 'badhi' and then covered by colourful cloth. The tone of Mandar can be adjusted by the tension in these leather straps. It is slung horizontally across the shoulder with the leather strap, and played with the palm and fingers of both the hands.

Initially used along with Nagara to scare the wild predators away, this loud instrument is now used as a rhythmic accompaniment for group singing in all rituals and festivals. The size of the instrument may vary from community to community but the structure remains the same. So there are various types of Mandar e.g. Jashpuria Mandar, Kortha Mandar, Khadia Mandar, Oraon Mandar, Santhal Mandar, Kurmali Mandar, Ho Mandar.

In earlier times the Tumdak and Tamak were played together in tandem by the Santhals. They believe that the drum beats regulate the laws of the Universe. During a Santhal wedding Tumdak and Tamak are gifted to the groom's father by the bride's father as a symbolic gesture.

There is place by the name of this instrument in Ranchi district of Jharkhand. Interestingly, according to a folk legend, long time ago this Murma area of Mandar block was inhabited by the Munda tribe. The Oraon people migrated to this area from Rohtasgarh area around 1530s and 1540s. There was clash between the two tribes but it was resolved by the music and dance competition, which went on for seven days and seven nights. At the end, the Oraons won the competition and this was attributed to

Mandar, which Oraons had but Mundas did not have. So Oraons settled there and Mundas left the place. To honour the instrument, this place was then named Mandar. But even today, the fossilized Sal tree, the 'dharma khunta', is still there to commemorate the Oraon Munda brotherhood.

According to another folk legend, during the colonial era, when the Britishers came to this area, they saw people celebrating some festival - dancing and singing along with the musical instrument of Mandar. They enquired about the name of the place, which locals misunderstood. They thought they were asking the name of the instrument, to which they replied Mandar. Since then the place is known as Mandar.

Mandar is a vital musical instrument which gives musical heartbeat and identity to the state of Jharkhand.

Nagara or Tamak or Dhamsa: Nagara of Mundas and Oraons, and Tamak of Santhals is supposed to be the first musical instrument made to scare away the wild predators.



This percussion instrument is played by a pair of thin and short sticks. The size of the Nagara i.e. large, medium or small is determined by the location and community. Medium or small sized Nagara is usually hung around the neck or waist of strong men. The large size drum is louder as compared to the small size drum.

The body of the large nagara, also known as Dhamsa by some communities, is made of metal and shaped like a large bowl. The head of the drum is usually covered with cowhide. The dome shell is fitted with a leather ring to provide a base to the ground. It is made up of leather lace. The ribs are tightened by placing them in holes made on the outer edges of the overlaid leather. Tone of the instrument can be adjusted by tightening or loosening the same. Silt is applied in the centre of the overlaid leather. The procedure of making the medium and small sized drums remains the same.

Santhali drum known as Tamak is small in size, and is hung across the shoulder. Santhals believe that Tamak has special religious powers hence they are played on all religious ceremonies and festivals.

Mandar and Nagara or Tumdak and Tamak are generally played together on all festivals and religious ceremonies.

Dhol: It is a double sided folk percussion instrument possibly dating back to 15th century, usually made from the wood of Jackfruit and Mango tree. A 20 – 22 inch long barrel shaped piece of wood forms the drum shell with a three feet circumference round the middle. Goat hide or parchment is wrapped over two bamboo rings and the openings 12

to 14 inches on the either side are covered by it. The left opening is covered by a thicker hide with a resinous patch in the centre, thus it produces a deeper sound. The right opening has a thinner softer membrane covering it. The pitch of the drum can be changed by tightening or slackening the membrane on each side.

The dhol is played on the left side with palm and fingers, and on the right with a short thick wooden stick (kathi), shaped like a snake head.

The Dhol player, also known as Dhuli, hangs the dhol around his neck with the help of the strap at waist height, enabling him to move around and play at the same time. The skill of the dhuli is visible, when he plays the mellow sound with as much ease as the loud and expressive sounds.

Dhol is often played on wedding ceremonies, festivals and while worshipping. It is also played during folk dances.

Dhak: It looks similar to dhol, but is somewhat larger than the dhol in size. It is made from the wood of the Mango tree. A large hollow wooden barrel is covered on both ends by hide as in dhol. The spherical ends are about 18 inches in diameter, the left of which



is covered with a thicker hide. The thicker end is played either with a pair of bamboo sticks or with the palm and fingers of hands and the other end acts as a resonator. The big instrument is slung over the shoulder, suspended from the neck or can be placed on the ground or lap, to play. It is often embellished with colourful or white feathers or white flowers of 'Kash grass' known as 'Kashphool'.

Making of Dhak is a long drawn process, and takes almost 4 months. The trunk of Mango tree is immersed in water for almost a month to soften and cure it. The inside is then hollowed out and the shell is soaked in the vat of mustard oil and garlic pods, and heated for an hour over the fire. The shell is left to remain in the oil till the time it takes a blackish hue. Then it is covered by hide.

The Dhak and Dhol were traditionally used as war drums and were also used in wedding processions. Dhak and Dhol are played together as accompaniments.

The beats of the Dhak are complex, and the nuances of which are generally passed down the generations. But the older, slower and complex beats which require a high degree of skill, has been taken over by faster beats.

It is often played during 'Durga Puja', 'Mansa Puja', 'Paika' and 'Natua' dances.

Major Challenges

The tribal musical instruments of Jharkhand, which when played in harmony, are pleasing to the ears. Music, for tribals, is not an occupation or choice, but is an inseparable part of their life. One cannot help but tap one's feet on the symphony of music.

But gradually, modernization seems to be taking toll on the rich culture and history of the tribes, which has been passed down the generations in the form of song and music up till now. With the history gradually getting lost, there is dilution in the religion and social structures of tribal society as well.

Secondly, the youngsters are getting influenced by cinema, which of course is too glamorous to resist. Hence the traditional songs and dances are being taken over by DJs, playing Bollywood numbers during festivals and weddings, which were up till now celebrated with tribal musical instruments.

Thirdly, to the tribal youths, adopting DJ culture seems to be the easiest means to be accepted by mainstream society. This is leading to fast fading of tribal musical instruments, which were at one time the pride and identity of the tribals.

Ways To Overcome Challenges

It may be difficult but not impossible to overcome these challenges. Modernization and urbanization is the need of the hour, but taking pride in one's culture and preserving it is the main challenge. One's culture is one's identity that connects one to their roots. Some of the ways to overcome these challenges are:-

1. Instilling pride – Youth in any society has the potential to bring about a change. Along with education, the pride needs to be instilled in the tribal youths about the rich culture and tradition of their tribe. This pride about their rich past and modern education would be a perfect blend of modernity and tradition.
2. Identity – The importance of maintaining healthy ties with one's roots, would keep them grounded, and education would help in the upward social mobility. Since one's culture and tradition is one's identity, hence it needs to be respected and cherished.
3. Need to keep the instruments alive – In modern bands, if tribal instruments too are given a chance to showcase themselves, it would be a fusion of modern and traditional, and the tribal instruments might regain their lost dignity.

Tribal musical instruments are not merely instruments; they are depiction of rich culture, tradition and history of tribal society. Hence there is need to preserve and keep the rich past alive.

Ms. Shikha Bhatnagar
Life Member of INTACH of Jharkhand chapter

3. Intangible Heritage - Wooden Lacquer Toys, Etikoppaka

Etikoppaka is a small village on the banks of Varaha River in the [Anakapalli district](#) of [Andhra Pradesh](#) in [India](#). Etikoppaka means, a group of houses on the banks of a river. The road distance of the village from Visakhapatnam is about 85 km and about 107 km from Kakinada. More than 200 Craftsman families live in this village. The toy-making is believed to be originated in the Nakkapalli village originally known as Laccapalli, some 25 kilometres from Etikoppaka. The toys were also in making in the nearby villages of Kottam, Kailasapatnam, Rolugunta, K.D.Peta that were now divided in between two districts of Anakapalle and Kakinada.

The soft wood of the Ankudi tree ([Wrightia tinctoria](#)) is used for making the toys and are coloured with natural dyes derived from seeds, lacquer, bark, roots and leaves and no chemical substances are used in colouring the toys. The vegetable dyes are mixed to the lac, a colourless resinous secretion of numerous insects during the process of oxidation. Hence, it is sustainable and eco-friendly. It is believed that the toys are in making since 400 years. In earlier days, the toys were used by children for playing. Gradually the toys adapted to a broad usage and now a variety of toys and decoration items, utility items and gift items are in making.

The significance of Toys

The toys have smooth contours and have no sharp edges that are rounded on all sides and have vibrant colours. The toys depict the scenes from the rural life like bullock carts, wells, birds, women, tops, rattles and animal figures and the canon toys and lord Ganesha, Srikrishna and Srivenkateswara etc. are well known. The toys were a part of the everyday lives of the people in the neighbouring villages and became a part in South Indian traditions. The toys are given as a gift on birthday occasions and also became a part of the wedding traditions and were used for the bride's trousseau to carry haldi Kumkum, betel nuts and other aromatic substances. The toys are sold in the country fairs, weekly markets, railway stations and bus stands.

Some of the craftsmen engaged in this craft have received awards from the forums like the [National Innovation Foundation](#), UNESCO [Seal of Excellence for Handicrafts](#) and so on. The toys have also been displayed at various venues including the Rashtrapathi Bhawan, New Delhi. Various organizations like the [National Institute of Design](#) (NID) have helped these artisans by conducting workshops to help them gain understanding of the popular market designs.

In 2017, the traditional toys acquired the Geographical Indication (GI) tag that allows the counterfeit market to tackle. Due to the excellent quality, brilliant designs and excellent craftsmanship, the toys are sold worldwide. Many countries like USA, Australia, France, Italy, and Germany import these toys from India to sell or to display as decoration items in their museums.

The Agriculturist-turned Craftsman Sri C.V. Raju received the civilian award of India,

the Padmasri for his efforts in reviving the art. He said- Today, around 160 households from the village of Etikoppaka are involved in this craft, and nearly 30,000-33,000 toys are made per month. The time for making a toy depends on the size and shape of the toy. The focus is always on maintaining the quality.

The Department of Science and Technology and the National Innovation Foundation are trying together to establish an interpretation centre to promote the craft. The Prime Minister Sri Narendra Modiji in his Man Ki Bath program has praised the uniqueness and cultural significance of the toys.

The Tableau of the Crafts on the Republic Day 2025

The Tableau of this Crafts was paraded on the Republic day this year at the Kartavya Path in New Delhi. The tableau features a toy of the Lord Ganesha in the front and Lord Venkateswara on the rear and it also displayed Hanuman and Srikrishna surrounded by other traditional band toys and artisans making toys. The Tableau earned applause from the onlookers. For the first time in 30 years, Andhra Pradesh state has won the third prize award in the jury category for its Tableau.

Conclusion: Though the appraisal of the craft seems to be nice, but the Craftsmen are struggling by the exploitation of the middle men and seeking direct sales of the product.



Etikoppaka Toys



Craftsman and Padmasri Awardee Sri C.V.Raju preparing Laqer

Vedula VLN Murthy
Convener
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