

AUGUST - NOVEMBER 2025

INTACH विकास

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



Image: Dhruv Sah, NH Division



INTACH

Indian
National Trust
for Art and
Cultural Heritage

DEDICATED TO CONSERVATION

Dear Members,

As part of our ongoing initiative to maintain accurate records, we are updating our database to ensure you receive the newsletter in your preferred format.

Kindly update your details by scanning the QR code provided below and completing the Google Form.

Scan  **the QR code** provided below  and complete the Google Form therein.



We value your input and look forward to your feedback.

Chapters Division, INTACH



The **INTACH Logo**, based on the anthropomorphic copper figure from Shahabad, Uttar Pradesh, belonging to the enigmatic Copper Hoards of the Ganga Valley is the perceived brand image of INTACH. The classic simplicity and vitality of its lines makes it a striking example of primitive man's creative genius. (circa 1800 – 1700 BC)

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

CHAIRMAN • Shri. Ashok Singh Thakur

VICE CHAIRMAN • Prof. Sukhdev Singh

MEMBER SECRETARY • Shri. Ravindra Singh (IAS Retd.)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

SHRI. T. S. RANDHAWA (IAS RETD.) • Advisor, INTACH Knowledge Centre

SHRI. S PRAKASH • Director, Administration Division

SHRI. ARUN BAJPAI • Director, Finance Division

MS. A VIJAYA • Principal Director, Architectural Heritage Division

SHRI. MANU BHATNAGAR • Principal Director, Natural Heritage Division

SHRI. NILABH SINHA • Principal Director, Art and Material Heritage Division & INTACH Conservation Institutes

MS. PURNIMA DATT • Principal Director, Heritage Education and Communication Service

MS. NERUPAMA Y. MODWEL • Principal Director, Intangible Cultural Heritage Division

GROUP CAPTAIN ARVIND SHUKLA (RETD.) • Director, Chapters Division

MS. VANDANA BINDU MANCHANDA • Head, Heritage Craft & Community Division

MS. MANISHA SINGH • Director, Cultural Affairs Division

MS. REKHA KHOSLA • Consultant, Heritage Tourism and Publications Divisions

CREDITS:

EDITOR • Rekha Khosla

ASSISTANT EDITOR • Keerthi Krishnan

PROJECT COORDINATOR • Devinder Malhi

CHAIRMAN SPEAKS



Shri. Ashok Singh Thakur, Chairman INTACH

I have extensively engaged with our grassroots Chapters, and witnessed firsthand how sincerely and energetically they implement the aims and objectives of INTACH.

As the year draws to a close, I look back on the preceding months in which I have extensively engaged with our grassroots Chapters, and witnessed firsthand how sincerely and energetically they implement the aims and objectives of INTACH. These efforts are ably supported by the Head Office, ensuring seamless interaction and the smooth delivery of programmes such as workshops, seminars, cultural events, and heritage awareness initiatives across the country.

During this period, I had the privilege of being part of several significant INTACH activities. I delivered a lecture in Varanasi on the history of coins in India, highlighting how coins are not only instruments of trade but also rich sources of information about political authority, economy, art, language, and religious symbolism across centuries. I also attended the launch of CONTINUUM by the INTACH Greater Mumbai Chapter – a vibrant celebration of INTACH’s diverse work, featuring installations and exhibitions from across INTACH divisions, showcases on century-old Art Deco heritage, and inspiring stories of craft revival.

I witnessed the remarkable response to a three-day Devanagari Calligraphy Workshop in Varanasi, which highlighted the cultural depth and artistic excellence embedded in our scripts. I also participated in the INTACH Lectures, which included enriching sessions such as a talk on Delhi in 1857 focusing on the Revolt, and another on fascinating narratives from Indian archaeology.



Celebrating Heritage and Craft Revival by the INTACH Greater Mumbai Chapter: Chief Guest Shri Amitabh Singh, Post Master General, Mumbai and Chairman lighting a lamp at the launch of CONTINUUM



Celebrating the Art of Indian scripts: The Chairman at the Devanagari Calligraphy Workshop, Varanasi



The Chairman's visit at the INTACH Conservation Institute (ICI), Lucknow: Discussing key heritage projects and initiatives with the technical staff



The Chairman at historic Peshwa Haveli, Varanasi, to inspect conservation efforts and heritage preservation

My visit to the historic Peshwa Haveli allowed me to personally inspect and understand the conservation challenges and potential of this important heritage site. I visited the Imambara Gateways and the INTACH Conservation Institute (ICI), Lucknow, and discussed key matters including project execution beyond the state, client management, financial planning, and coordination of chapter visits. I also joined a lecture series on the stepwells of India, which emphasized how these structures were revolutionary water-harvesting systems while being architectural masterpieces of their time.

Capacity building remains a cornerstone of INTACH's mission, and I was pleased to join the XVII INTACH Capacity Building Workshop, interacting with participants committed to strengthening heritage conservation practices across regions.

It gives me immense pride to announce the opening of the Vidisha Chapter, Jhunjhunu Chapter, Vijayawada Chapter and the Ranga Reddy Chapter, expanding INTACH's footprint even further. INTACH Bhopal Chapter also marked important milestones by organizing their first seminar on the coins of Madhya Pradesh, accompanied by a special release of commemorative coins.

As part of INTACH Heritage Week, a series of lectures and exhibitions were held around the theme 'Gaja Lok,' presented by eminent scholars. The programme highlighted the four-millennia-old relationship between humans and elephants in the Indian subcontinent, weaving together cultural, historical, spiritual, and ecological narratives that connect India with Southeast Asia in a shared tradition of coexistence. The Gaja-Lok Exhibition and Roundtable brought together academicians, cultural experts, conservationists, and heritage professionals, fostering a rich exchange of perspectives on this shared heritage. The event was graced by Chief Guest, Shri Vivek Agarwal, I.A.S., Secretary, Ministry of Culture, whose presence added great significance to the discussions.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to all Chapters, convenors, members, and volunteers for their unwavering dedication. Together, we continue to safeguard the invaluable cultural legacy of our nation.



The XVII INTACH Capacity Building Workshop: The Chairman interacting with participants



The Chairman at Seminar on 'Coins of Madhya Pradesh' organized by the Bhopal Chapter



The Chairman inaugurating Vijayawada Chapter



The Chairman inaugurating Ranga Reddy Chapter

It gives me immense pride to announce the opening of the **Vidisha Chapter, Jhunjhunu Chapter, Vijayawada Chapter** and the **Ranga Reddy Chapter**, expanding INTACH's footprint even further.

CONTENTS

FEATURE ARTICLES

- Designing Water: Morphology and Histories of the Stepwells of India > 5
- Islands of the Brahmaputra: Living Landscapes of Culture and Ecology > 9

CONSERVATION: BUILT, MATERIAL & NATURAL HERITAGE

- Architectural Heritage (AH) > 15
- INTACH Listing Cell > 21
- Art and Material Heritage (A and MH) > 22
- Natural Heritage (NH) > 32

COMMUNITY KNOWLEDGE

- Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) > 37
- Heritage Craft and Community (HCCD) > 44

EDUCATION, TRAINING & OUTREACH

- Heritage Education and Communication Services (HECS) > 49
- Cultural Affairs (CA) > 62
- Heritage Tourism (HT) > 66
- Publications > 68
- INTACH Knowledge Centre (IKC) > 69

CENTRAL OFFICE

- Special from Central Office > 70

AT THE GRASSROOTS

- INTACH Chapters > 72

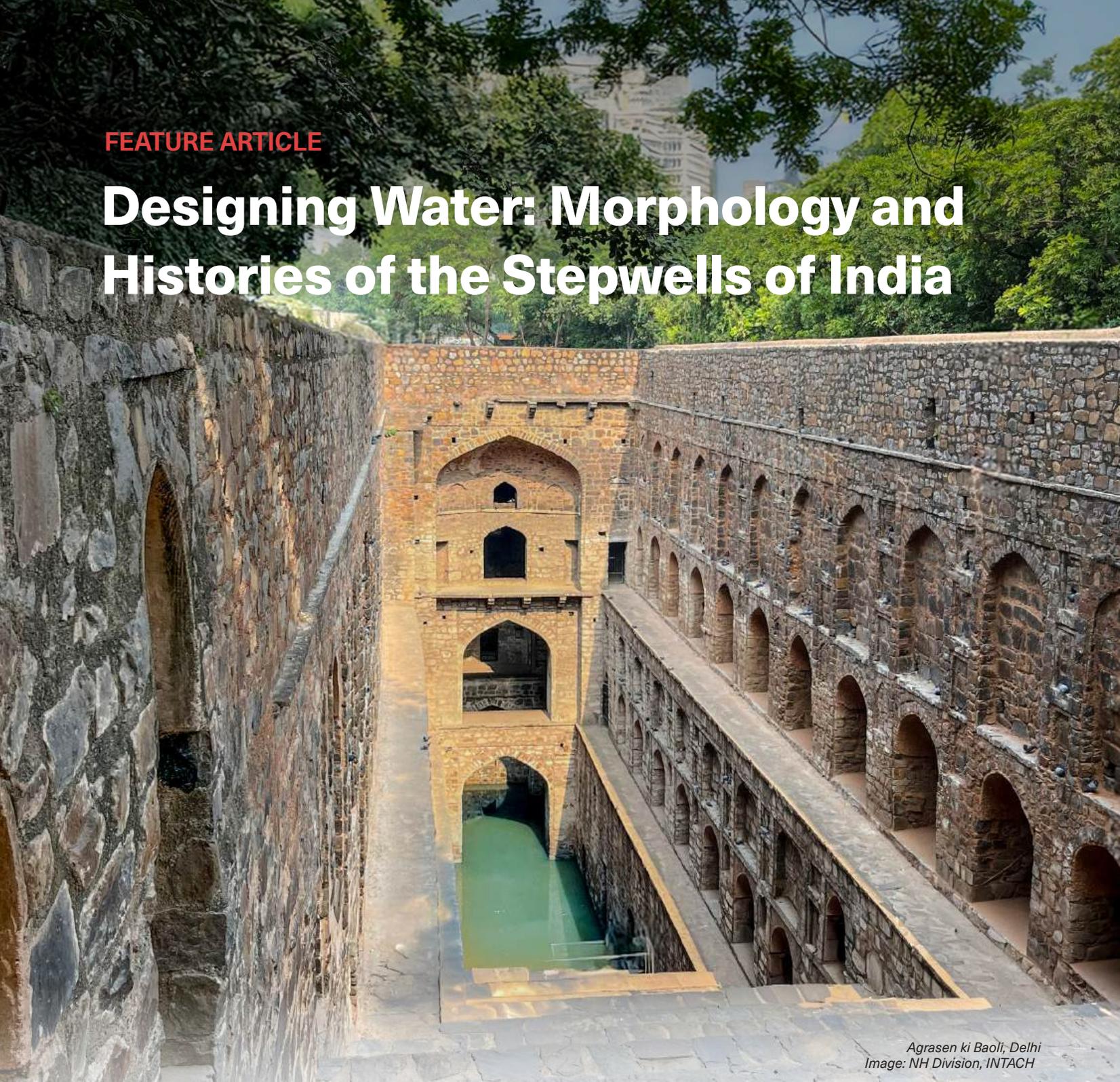
HERITAGE INFORMATION

- The National Digital Library of India (NDLI) > 119
- Digitization Cell of the National Museum > 119
- Nostalgia and National Libraries > 120



FEATURE ARTICLE

Designing Water: Morphology and Histories of the Stepwells of India



Agrasen ki Baoli, Delhi
Image: NH Division, INTACH

AUTHOR
Manisha Singh
Director, Cultural Affairs, INTACH

Dealing with the design of water has been a part of architectural thinking in India since its very inception. The cultural significance of water architecture is evident in the ingeniously conceived forms found across the country wells, step-wells, ponds, reservoirs, temple tanks, lakes, rock-cut cisterns, and riverside ghats. Rooted in regional traditions and canonical practices, these structures serve as markers of hydro-technical expertise, sustainability, trade and commerce, social conventions, and sacred spaces for worship. Stepwells, in particular, were often conceived as “*underground temples*.”

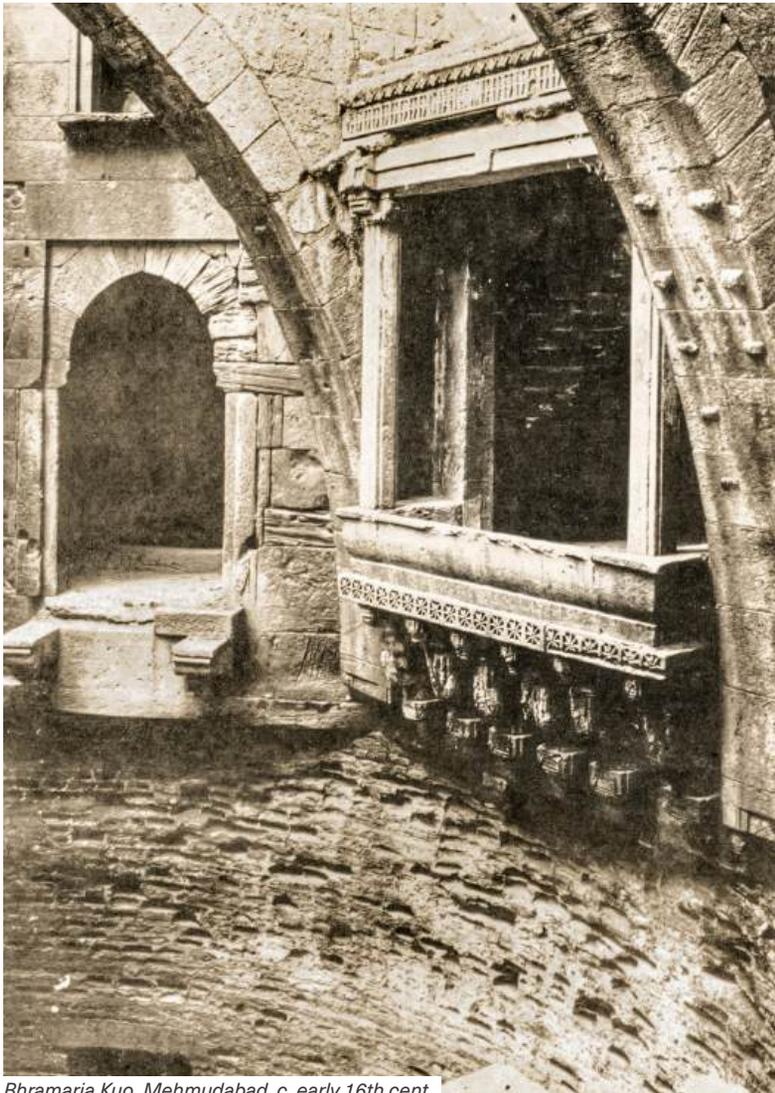
The article is based on the lecture series on Stepwells in India, organized at INTACH, New Delhi

Stepwells, subterranean aqua-structures, were an integral part of Indian communities from the 2nd century A.D. until the late 19th century. With the advent of canal and piped water-supply systems, these exquisite step-wells were gradually abandoned and forgotten.

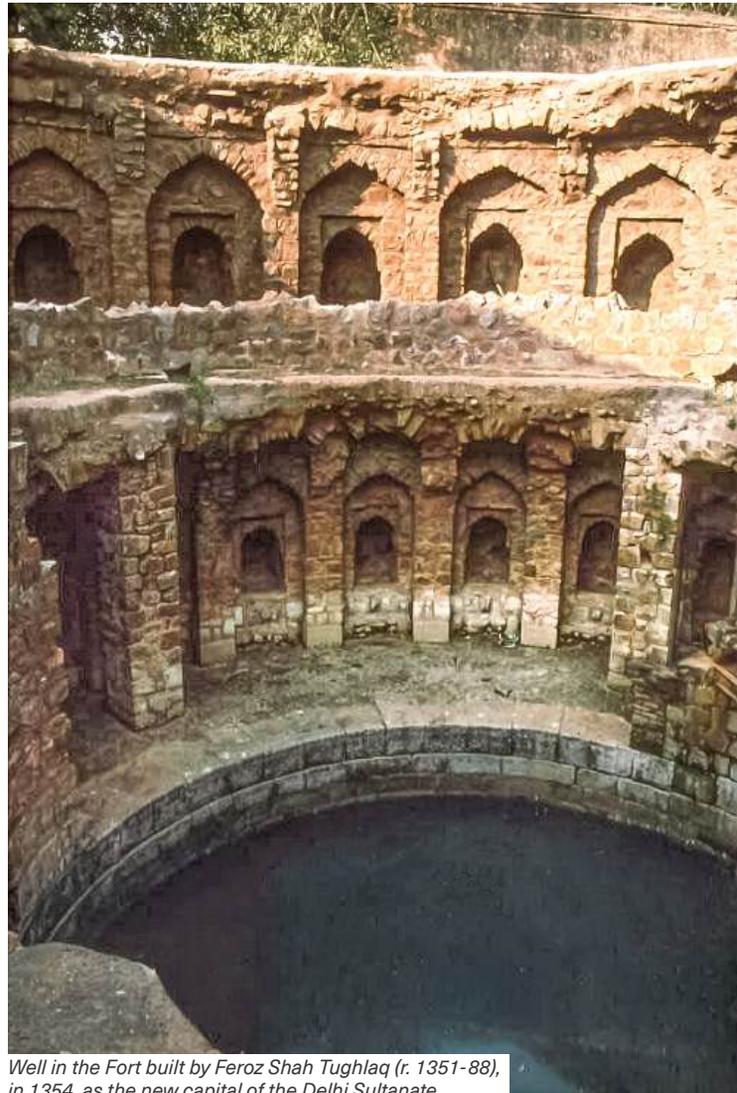


This renewed focus aims to contemporize traditional systems, revive historic stepwells, create new ones, rationalize modern methods, and integrate the entire spectrum of aqua-architecture into a sustainable water network.

(left): Rani ki Vav, the most famed Stepwell of the Queen, Patan, northern Gujarat, commissioned by Queen Udayamati, consort of Bhimadeva I (c. 1022-1064), as a memorial monument upon his death; but was buried during the great floods of Saraswati river flowing nearby in around 1300 CE before the Islamic rule was established in Patan



Bhramaria Kuo, Mehmudabad, c. early 16th cent.



Well in the Fort built by Feroz Shah Tughlaq (r. 1351-88), in 1354, as the new capital of the Delhi Sultanate



(above & below): Vikia Vav, in Ghumli, Saurashtra, Gujarat

However, after more than a century-long hiatus, as ecological and sustainability concerns grew amidst the deepening water crisis, the need arose to revisit the ancient wisdom of water harnessing. This renewed focus aims to contemporize traditional systems, revive historic stepwells, create new ones, rationalize modern methods, and integrate the entire spectrum of aqua-architecture into a sustainable water network.

The Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) has played a pivotal role in implementing two major urban conservation projects in India, at the Humayun's Tomb – Nizamuddin area in Delhi and the Qutb Shahi Tombs in Golconda. Across both projects, the Trust has undertaken the conservation of nine historic *baolis*, combining heritage and nature conservation. Once neglected and crumbling, these stepwells have been meticulously restored and, in some cases, reconstructed, transforming them into functional water-harvesting structures that collectively capture over 40 million litres of rainwater each monsoon. The conservation of these *baolis* stands as a model of how heritage preservation can effectively integrate history, ecology, and urban water security in rapidly expanding cities.

A successful example of contemporizing traditional water architecture is the creation of *Birkha Bawari* in the Umaid Heritage Housing Township, Jodhpur—a water-stressed city on the fringes of the Thar Desert. Designed by Jodhpur-based architect A. Mridul, this new subterranean structure, modeled after a traditional stepwell, can hold over 17.5 million litres of rainwater. Constructed with locally quarried sandstone and built by local craftsmen, *Birkha Bawari* exemplifies sustainable design by utilizing renewable resources and minimizing non-renewable energy use.





Once vital community hubs they brought together communities and also showed how traditional engineering was based in good science that worked in harmony with nature.

An independent campaign for mapping and documenting the stepwells of Maharashtra has been undertaken by Rohan Kale as a private initiative. His efforts include architectural and photographic documentation, cleanliness drives for preservation, and tourism development. The campaign focuses on the revitalization of Maharashtra's stepwells as a means of promoting water conservation. He has documented thousands of stepwells across Maharashtra.

Rani ki Vav, a stepwell located in the city of Patan, in the Indian state of Gujarat was officially inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List on 22 June 2014. It was constructed as a memorial to the 11th-century king Bhimdev I.

Stepwells in India remain significant today as powerful reminders of sustainable water management of yore in the face of rapid modernization. Once vital community hubs they brought together communities and also showed how traditional engineering was based in good science that worked in harmony with nature. As we face water scarcity and climate stress, these stepwells symbolize for us cultural continuity, offer spaces for heritage tourism and remind us to value and preserve our traditional ecological wisdom and identity.

Stepwell at Chandrashekharpuram, A.P.



Images of this article are from the presentation of Jutta Jain-Neubauer

FEATURE ARTICLE

Islands of the Brahmaputra: Living Landscapes of Culture and Ecology



AUTHOR & IMAGES

Abhishek Kumar

*Asst. Director,
Natural Heritage Division*

*Umananda Island on the Brahmaputra
River – A cultural heritage landmark*

Introduction

The Brahmaputra River, one of Asia's most dynamic and sediment-rich systems, flows through a tropical landscape and valley that supports a complex network of riverine islands locally known as *Char* and *Chaporis*. The river's braided nature, characterized by multiple interlacing channels that shift constantly with the flow and sediment load, is the key driver of island formation and transformation. These islands continuously emerge, erode, and reform in tune with the river's natural rhythm, creating a dynamic mosaic of fertile floodplains and diverse habitats that sustain a fragile ecosystem.

Recognizing the ecological and socio-cultural significance of these islands, the Brahmaputra Board (Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India) has commissioned INTACH to prepare a comprehensive Riverine Island Policy for the Brahmaputra River.



Herd of elephants grazing on a riverine island of the Brahmaputra — A glimpse of the rich wildlife sustained by these dynamic island ecosystems

Through extensive field surveys, stakeholder consultations, and GIS-based mapping, INTACH seeks to document the ecological character and cultural assets of the islands, assess vulnerabilities to erosion and flooding, and propose adaptive strategies for their long-term management.

Scope and Objectives

The project spans the entire course of the river within India—from the East Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh to the point where the Brahmaputra enters Bangladesh. It aims to develop a scientific and policy framework that integrates ecological conservation, cultural heritage protection, and sustainable livelihood planning.

Through extensive field surveys, stakeholder consultations, and GIS-based mapping, INTACH seeks to document the ecological character and cultural assets of the islands, assess vulnerabilities to erosion and flooding, and propose adaptive strategies for their long-term management.

Significance of the Riverine Islands

The Brahmaputra's braided morphology gives rise to one of the world's most dynamic island systems. The continuous deposition and reworking of sediments create fertile yet fragile floodplain islands. Seasonal floods and erosion reshape them annually, displacing inhabitants yet renewing the soil and supporting agriculture, fishing, and wetland biodiversity.



Rapidly emerging settlements on the island pose a threat to its fragile ecosystem

The islands also hold deep spiritual and cultural value. Majuli, for example, remains a global symbol of sustainable living and the spiritual heritage of Assam's Neo-Vaishnavite tradition. Many lesser-known islands, too, preserve ancient temples, *satras*, and traditional settlements that reflect the river's enduring bond with the people of the valley.

However, recent trends have raised growing concern. As urban areas along the Brahmaputra expand, settlements are increasingly moving into the islands, disturbing their ecological sensitivity. In the lower reaches near Dhubri and adjoining districts, several islands are experiencing rapid urbanization, with permanent settlements and infrastructure replacing once-transient landscapes. This phenomenon is now slowly extending upstream, underscoring the urgent need for a policy framework to guide sustainable development.

Moreover, uncontrolled farming practices extending up to the water's edge make the islands highly erosion-prone, while the use of chemical fertilizers is gradually contaminating the river water, potentially threatening aquatic biodiversity in the future. The proposed policy will therefore include regulations for agricultural activities, promoting eco-friendly and adaptive farming that respects the ecological limits of these sensitive islands.

The proposed policy includes regulations for agricultural activities, promoting eco-friendly and adaptive farming that respects the ecological limits of these sensitive islands.

Equally significant is the grey area of land ownership and administrative jurisdiction. Many riverine islands are not clearly demarcated within district or revenue boundaries due to their shifting nature. This ambiguity often leads to overlapping claims, limited governance, and the absence of clear land rights for island inhabitants. The forthcoming policy will seek to address these institutional gaps by proposing a defined administrative and legal framework, ensuring effective management and equitable governance of these dynamic landscapes.



Policy Vision

The proposed Riverine Island Policy envisions safeguarding the delicate ecosystems of riverine islands while promoting harmony between nature and human habitation. It seeks to maintain the ecological integrity of these dynamic landscapes through strategies focused on:

- Conservation of biodiversity and restoration of natural habitats
- Enhancing ecological resilience against floods and erosion through adaptive land use
- Regulating agricultural and developmental activities to prevent habitat degradation
- Ensuring sustainable resource use and clarity in land and water governance
- Strengthening inter-agency coordination for integrated ecosystem management

The policy emphasizes creating a robust ecological framework and institutional mechanism grounded in scientific research, traditional knowledge, and community stewardship to ensure long-term ecosystem sustainability.



Massive agricultural practices on the island, impact its natural ecosystem

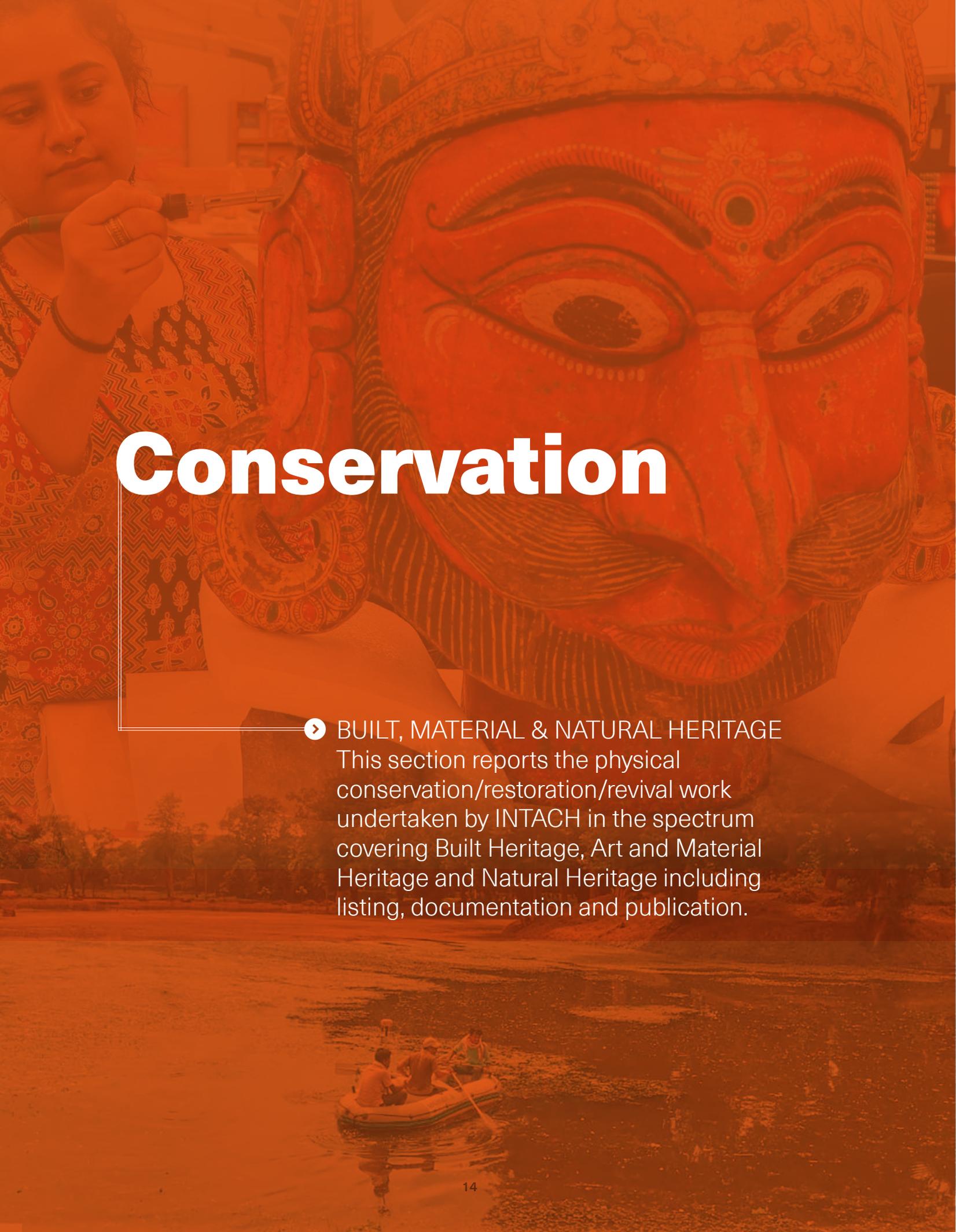
Conclusion

The Riverine Island Policy for the Brahmaputra River marks a vital move towards balancing development with ecological conservation. These islands, shaped by the river's dynamic flow, are living ecosystems supporting rich biodiversity and traditional livelihoods. However, growing urbanization, unregulated farming, and infrastructure pressures, threaten their fragile balance.

The policy envisions designating riverine islands as ecologically sensitive zones that act as natural buffers against floods and sustain biodiversity. By integrating scientific understanding, traditional wisdom, and strong governance, it aims to protect their ecological and cultural identity.

Through this initiative, INTACH and the Brahmaputra Board seek to establish a model for sustainable riverine management where development proceeds in harmony with nature, ensuring that these unique island ecosystems remain resilient and thriving for future generations.





Conservation

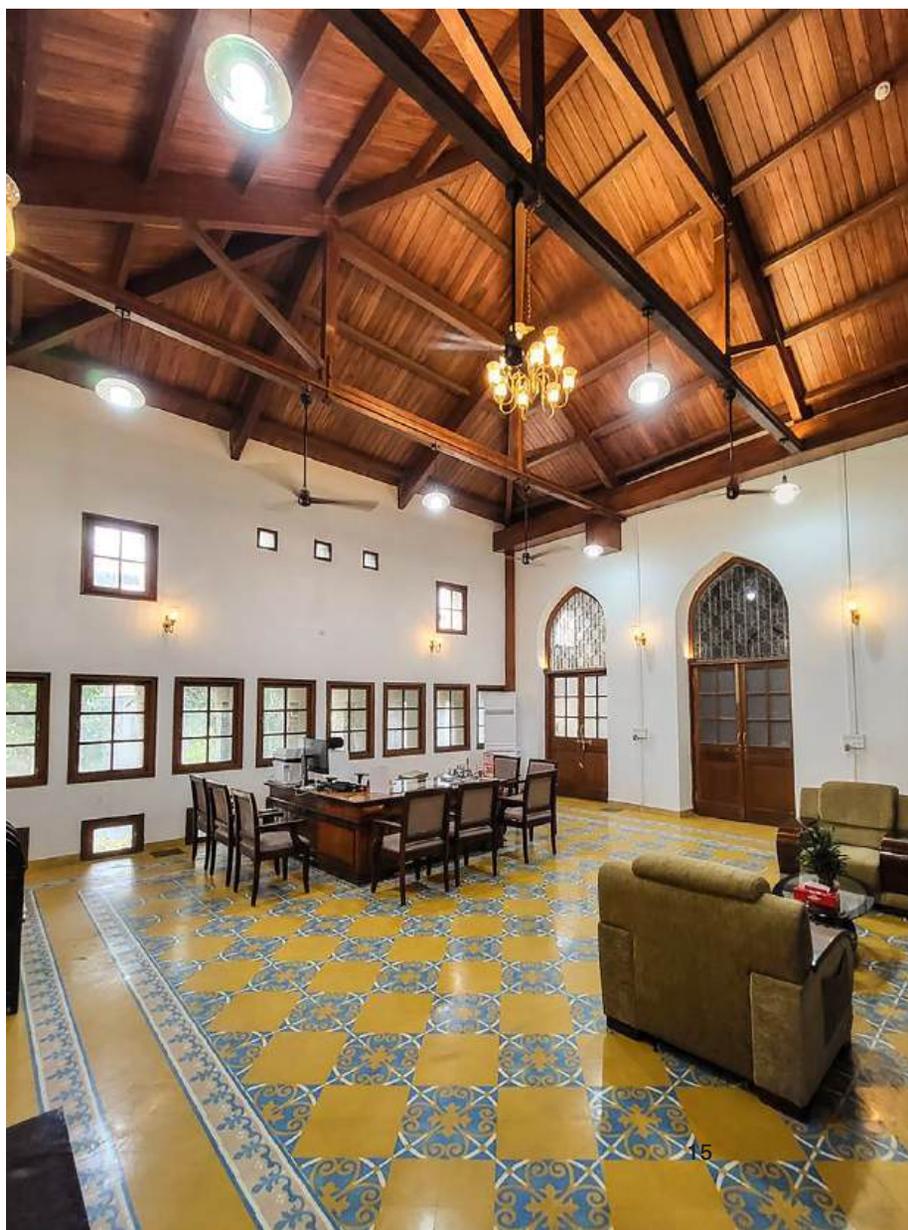
- ▶ **BUILT, MATERIAL & NATURAL HERITAGE**
This section reports the physical conservation/restoration/revival work undertaken by INTACH in the spectrum covering Built Heritage, Art and Material Heritage and Natural Heritage including listing, documentation and publication.

✓ ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE DIVISION

Conservation of General Post Office (GPO) Building, Department of Posts, Mumbai

The third phase of conservation works at the General Post Office (GPO), Mumbai, has been completed. This phase marks another step forward in the ongoing effort to conserve the iconic Grade I heritage building. The upcoming and final phase will encompass the restoration of the Rotunda beneath the central dome of the main building, the Meghdoot Building located to its north, other ancillary heritage structures, and the surrounding site development. Work on this phase is expected to commence shortly on site.

CPMG Chamber after restoration



(L-R) Shri Shailesh Gore, Site Engineer; Shri Amitabh Singh, Chief Postmaster General, Maharashtra Circle; INTACH Chairman, Shri Ashok Singh Thakur; INTACH Governing Council Member, Ms. Katyayani Agarwal at the Kamalnayan Bajaj Art Gallery, Mumbai

In parallel, the INTACH Mumbai Chapter inaugurated an exhibition titled “Continuum: INTACH’s Commitment to the Future of the Past” on 5 August, at the Kamalnayan Bajaj Art Gallery, Mumbai. The event was graced by Shri. Amitabh Singh, Chief Postmaster General, Maharashtra Circle, as the Chief Guest, and Shri. Ashok Singh Thakur, Chairman, INTACH, as the Guest of Honour. The exhibition celebrated ongoing efforts in conservation and reflected INTACH’s enduring commitment to preserving India’s architectural legacy.

Gol Dak Khana (New Delhi GPO)

The roundabout earlier known as Alexandra Place, where Gol Dak Khana is situated was part of the original layout for New Delhi made by Edwin Lutyens. With the capital shifting from Calcutta to Delhi, there was a need to provide postal facilities for the offices and public in the area. The post office was designed in a circular layout to fit in the roundabout, by Robert Tor Russell, the chief architect of PWD in



Gol Dak Khana, Director’s residence block



Gol Dak Khana repair and waterproofing of terrace for block 10



Structural testing of slab for block 10

1931. The Post Office was then known as Viceroy Camp Post Office and going to the Post Office was a social activity since telephones were available there. People would fix an appointment to meet there.

Spread over approximately 9000 square meters, with a built-up area of 3700 square meters, the Gol Dak Khana, although seeming like one circular building from the outside, has 12 separate blocks, including a central block. The primary access to the public hall is from the south side. The north side of the building has residential quarters used by the staff. There is a narrow vehicular path highlighted by a circular arch, accessed from the Northeast direction, which allowed the postal carts to ply.

The building is in a structurally stable condition although there are some minor issues. Over the years, due to demand for more space and functions of post offices, one can notice several additions and alterations. The Department of Post (Delhi circle) signed an MoU with INTACH on 29 November 2022. A very detailed documentation and condition assessment of the building has been done for the first time. INTACH's proposal includes restoration of the building to its original footprint, optimizing the usage of internal spaces as per the requirement of the post office and restoring the lost/ damaged architectural features and renewal of all building services, primarily to increase the life of the heritage building. Currently the work is ongoing in two blocks while the Post offices continue to operate.

Allahabad High Court, Prayagraj

The Allahabad High Court built in 1914-1916, designed by architect Frank Lishman covers an area of 28 acres, within which the heritage building has a plinth area of approx. 10,000 sqm. Over the years the building has undergone several additions and alterations. In June 2017, the High Court approached INTACH for conservation of the building and a MOU was signed. A Detailed Project Report for the restoration of the building was submitted in 2018, which was approved in principle by the Allahabad High Court Building Committee and PWD in 2020. The financial approval from the state was received in August 2024. Subsequently the building condition was re-assessed and the tender for execution of the restoration work was floated by



Allahabad High Court, Prayagraj

UPPWD. For ease of functioning of the High Court, the restoration process will be executed in 7 parts, each consisting of a block area which will be handed over for restoration, while the rest of the building remains functional. The project is currently in planning and mobilization stage.

Senate Hall, Allahabad University, Prayagraj

The MoU for Restoration of the Senate Hall was signed on 22 August 2024 based on an initial Detailed Project Report submitted by INTACH in March 2022. The Senate Hall building is an integral part of the University of Allahabad, which is one of the oldest universities of the country. Apart from its significance in Indian politics, the university is also an architectural landmark. The design and construction of the university buildings reflected the Indo-Saracenic architectural style with elements on façade in the form of domes,

Clock Tower, Senate Hall, Prayagraj





Senate hall Prayagraj

chajjas and columns while the interior spatial planning is influenced by European design. The Senate Hall and the adjacent buildings were designed by Col. Sir Swinton Jacob. The foundation stone was laid by the Lieutenant Governor, Sir John Prescott Hewett on 17 January 1910. The building houses a grand clock tower and the original mechanical clock manufactured by J G Bechtler Son & Company, Allahabad, installed atop the senate hall building in 1912.

After the signing of the MoU, revised estimates were submitted to CPWD for their review. The project will shortly be tendered by the CPWD.

Conservation of New General Office (NGO), Headquarters of Southern Railways, Chennai, Tamil Nadu

The detailed proposal report (DPR) for the conservation of the 100-year-old NGO building, that functions as the headquarters of the Southern Railways, is currently under preparation. The Indo-Saracenic building is exemplary of its time of construction,

Corner dome of building



Towers atop the building

wherein the masonry was constructed using lime, and the roof was constructed in cement concrete. The building has a central dome and the floors are flanked on either side. There are eight corner towers with domes on top, along the east and west facades. The Reconnaissance report was submitted in May 2025. Following which, the AH team visited the site again in October 2025, for detailed documentation and assessment for the preparation of the DPR.

Kilkaari Bihar Bal Bhawan, Muzaffarpur

The Kilkaari Bhawan in Muzaffarpur, Bihar, which provides training in extracurricular activities to children is currently operated from a nearly 100 year old building, near the Zila school. There are three ruined buildings in the campus which are also close to a 100 years old. The Bihar Bal Bhawan (Department of Education, Govt. of Bihar) approached INTACH for the restoration of these three buildings and a MoU was signed. The first phase of the restoration works encompassed the Guard Room structure and has been completed on site. The next phase will focus on the restoration of the Kitchen Block which is expected to commence on site, shortly.

Ujjayanta Palace Museum, Agartala, Tripura

The Directorate of Tourism, Government of Tripura approached INTACH for the upgradation and digitization of the Ujjayanta Palace Museum in Agartala, Tripura. The



Before restoration-East facade



During restoration



After restoration



Before restoration North Façade



During restoration



After restoration



Front facade of Ujjayanta Palace



AH team inspecting dome of the Palace



Darbar hall

Ujjayanta Palace, an iconic landmark built in 1901 by Maharaja Radha Kishore Manikya, currently houses the Tripura State Museum, which showcases the state's rich cultural, archaeological, and ethnographic heritage. The INTACH team conducted a preliminary site survey of the Ujjayanta Palace Museum from 25 to 27 August 2025 to assess the existing conditions and requirements for the proposed project. The assessment covered key aspects such as gallery layout, infrastructure, collection display, lighting systems, visitor movement, and digital readiness etc. Following the survey, a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been submitted to the Directorate of Tourism. The MoU is expected to be signed shortly, after which a detailed project report will be prepared.

St. Mary's Church, Ajmer, Rajasthan

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Core Committee of St. Mary's Church, Ajmer, and INTACH on 1 August 2025 for the restoration of the church, to begin with the Chapel area. The roof of the church was badly destroyed during an unfortunate fire accident in April 2024. The work was planned to be undertaken in phases based on a reconnaissance survey, carried out by the INTACH team in May 2024.

The restoration of the roof over the Chapel area commenced on 2 October 2025, and is currently in progress. Most of the timber members including the trusses, were found to be damaged and termite infested. Members found in good condition have been retained and repaired in situ, and the damaged ones have been replaced by the best quality seasoned timber – Malaysian *Saal*. The installation of the wooden members / trusses has been a challenge, which was done with the help of a boom lift and chain pulley. After restoration of the wooden roof, the stone slate tiles will be laid over as per the original design and detailing.





PD, AH visited the church to inspect the ongoing work on 12 November 2025



Making of wooden planks for ceiling

Yamuna Cultural Documentation

Continuing the documentation along the Yamuna River, the survey has now covered Delhi and six districts of Uttar Pradesh which are Saharanpur, Shamli, Baghpat, Ghaziabad, Aligarh, and Gautam Buddha Nagar.

In Delhi, a total of 1,526 heritage sites has been identified within a 5 km study area of the Yamuna River. Many heritage buildings from the Shahjahanabad listing were found to be demolished or at risk of disappearance. Several Art deco buildings have been included in the current list.



Installation of wooden arched trusses in position

Draft Heritage Bye laws

INTACH AH Division has been actively involved in preparing draft Heritage Bye-laws (HBL) for Centrally Protected Monuments across the country. Till date, draft HBLs for 21 Protected Monuments have been submitted to National Monuments Authority (NMA) out of which 16 have been finalised and 6 have been laid in the Parliament. Draft HBLs for three monuments in Kerala and one in Chhattisgarh are under preparation.

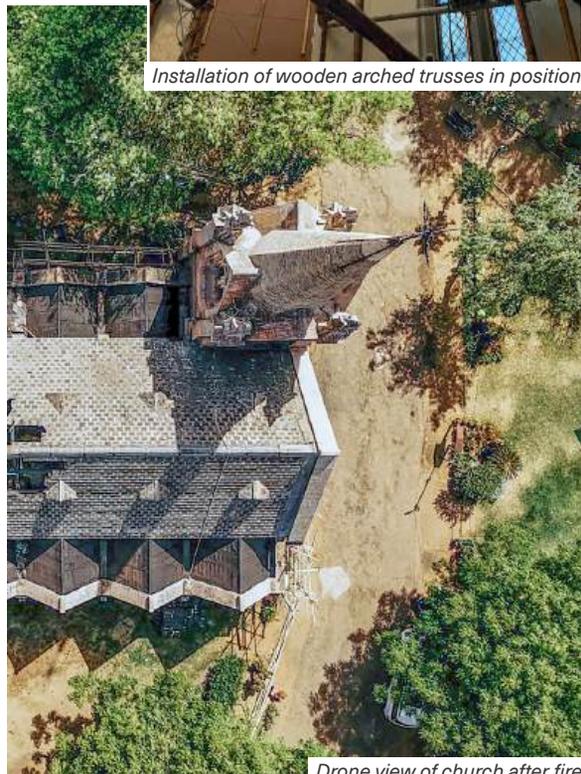
In Uttar Pradesh, the districts of Ghaziabad, Gautam Buddha Nagar, and Aligarh contain fewer heritage sites, as their historic cores lie away from the Yamuna. Within the study area, only ten built heritage sites were identified. Notable examples include the Teen Chattri in Ghaziabad, linked to the Mughal-era; the Victory Pillar at Noida Golf Course, marking the 1803 CE British-Maratha battle; and the Ravan Temple at Bistrakh village of Gautam Buddha Nagar, where Ravana is revered as a scholar.

Saharanpur, Shamli, and Baghpat have a total of 65 heritage structures. Saharanpur district presents Mughal legacy through its large-scale structures. One example is Lakhnauti village, where Amir Marda settled after Humayun regained the throne in 1555 CE, and his son Mirza Hamza Ali built the Lakhnauti Fort here. The

INTACH team visited Kerala for preparation of the HBLs from 14-16 October 2025



Remains of an ancient temple, Tuman, Chhattisgarh



Drone view of church after fire



village also includes the Hingo Begum Imambada, the Shia Jama Masjid, and several unidentified tombs. Apart from Lakhnauti, the ASI-protected Badshahi Mahal and mosque in the Badshahi Bagh complex served as royal retreats and hunting lodges, and add to the district's historic value. In Shamli, the Nawab Talab in Kairana, built by Nawab Muqarrab Khan, a minister of Emperor Jahangir, is located within the Nolakha Bagh, once



Unknown tomb, Lakhnauti village, Saharanpur



Unknown tomb, Kairana village, Shamli



Makanpur Chattri, Ghaziabad



Kota House, Delhi

containing nine hundred thousand fruit trees. Mentioned in Tuzk-e-Jahangiri, the pond was supplied by the Yamuna River. Baghat, formerly known as Vyagprastha and declared a separate district in 1997 CE, features the Shikwa Haveli in Katha village from the Delhi Sultanate period, which served as the residence and court of the Qazis. Another haveli within Baghat city, belongs to Nawab Kokab Hameed, built about 200 years ago by Iranian artisans, and later became a centre of political, social, and cultural activity, visited by British officers and hunters such as Jim Corbett.

Heritage Well at Dhun Dhai Village, Tarn Taran, Punjab

Near Naik Lal Singh's memorial in Dhun Dhai Wala village, Tarn Taran, stands a modest lakhori-brick well that quietly holds a profound chapter of history. Naik Lal Singh, born in this village, served as second-in-command during the legendary Battle of Saragarhi on 12 September 1897, a heroic stand where 21 soldiers of the 36th Sikh Regiment (now 4 Sikh), led by Havaladar Ishar Singh, defended a remote frontier outpost against more than 10,000 Afghan tribesmen. Choosing honour over survival, all 21 men fought to the last breath and were awarded the Indian Order of Merit for their unmatched courage.

Over time, the well associated with Naik Lal Singh had fallen into disrepair, its significance overshadowed by neglect. Its conservation was envisaged by the INTACH Tarn Taran Chapter and Punjab State Chapter. The Architectural Heritage



During conservation of well

Division under its passion project programme undertook the execution of the restoration in July-August 2025, focusing on consolidation of the original lakhori brickwork, cleaning and vegetation removal.

The restored well was inaugurated on 15 September 2025, standing once again as a quiet but powerful tribute to Naik Lal Singh and the unparalleled valour of the soldiers of Saragarhi. The event was graced by the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the 7 Indian Infantry Division, as the Chief Guest and the State Convenor INTACH Punjab Chapter.



During conservation of well



Inauguration plaque



Inauguration day

INTACH LISTING CELL

Completed Listings

Listing of Zhungkor (Stod), Ladakh

The sixth and final volume in the Ladakh series is the 'Historical Sites of Central Ladakh (Zhungkor)'. Zhungkor is the middle part of Ladakh, located between Sham in the northwest, Nubra in the north, Changthang in the east and Zaskar in the south. Despite being the smallest region of Ladakh, Zhungkor contains the largest number of fortifications. Besides fortifications, numerous petroglyphs, chortens, Buddhist carvings, temples, monasteries and painted caves were also identified and listed during the primary survey undertaken by Dr. Quentin Devers. The volume has identified 555 sites/monuments out of which 313 were not known in the existing literature. The listing is currently under review and will be published shortly.



Matho Gonpa, Matho, Leh



A snippet of the online training session held with Pune, Nagpur, Nashik, Solapur and Amravati chapters

Ongoing Listings

Ongoing listings include Listing of Bharuch (Gujarat), Faizabad (Uttar Pradesh), Burhanpur (Madhya Pradesh), Kandi Sub-division, Jabalpur city (Madhya Pradesh), Rajpipla (Gujarat), Dakshin Dinajpur (West Bengal) and Thrissur (Kerala).

entries made so far. Resource persons and organizations from various states are being identified for collaboration. Members of Pune, Nashik, Nagpur, Solapur and Amravati chapters of Maharashtra were trained through an online session held on 21 August 2025 to contribute to the database. All INTACH chapters are encouraged to actively participate and support this initiative.

Dissemination Activities

INTACH Heritage Database

As part of the ongoing "INTACH Heritage Database" initiative, our recent heritage listings have been successfully integrated into a map-based online platform. To date, information on over 9,250 heritage properties, identified and documented through extensive primary surveys, has been uploaded. The database is publicly accessible on the INTACH website.

Capacity Building Workshop with DIT University, Dehradun

An online training session was conducted for selected architecture students of DIT University, Dehradun, to equip them with the skills required for undertaking the Dehradun heritage listing. The session focused on the use of the ArcGIS Survey123 app for field surveys. The listing work is expected to commence shortly. The session was also attended by Dehradun, Kotdwar and Mussoorie chapters.

Secondary Sources Database

Another heritage database is being developed to collect information about the heritage properties in the country through secondary sources. Information on ASI and State Protected Monuments is currently being uploaded, with over 1,925

Capacity Building Workshop for New INTACH Members

The Listing Cell team participated in the Capacity Building Workshop for new INTACH members on 7 and 8 October 2025 and trained the participants in using the mobile application "Survey 123" for spot listing of heritage properties. Divided into two groups, the participants were taken

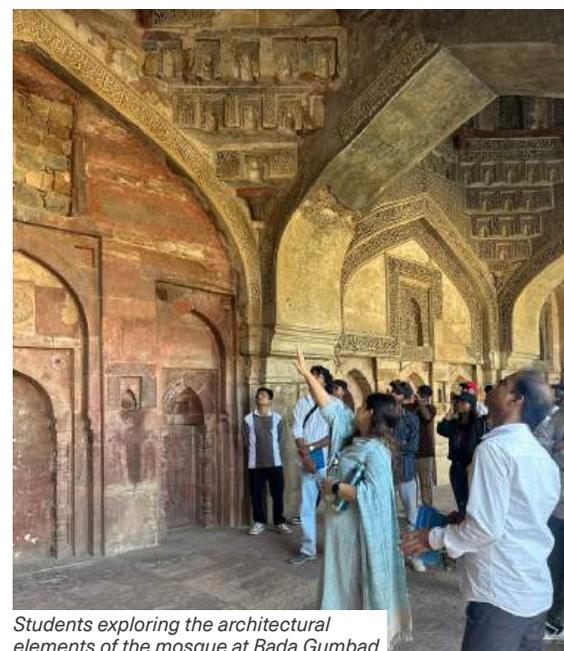
on a field visit to Lodhi Garden to practice using the app for spot listing. The field visit was also attended by Shri Ashok Singh Thakur, Chairman INTACH.

Field visit for students of Dev Bhoomi Uttarakhand University, Dehradun

About 40 architectural students of the Dev Bhoomi Uttarakhand university visited INTACH on 24 September 2025 and were taken on a field visit to the Lodhi Gardens to apprise them of the architectural character of the Lodi-era monuments.



Shri Ashok Singh Thakur, Chairman, INTACH, with participants at the field visit to Lodhi garden for spot listing



Students exploring the architectural elements of the mosque at Bada Gumbad



ART & MATERIAL HERITAGE DIVISION / INTACH CONSERVATION INSTITUTE

Directory of Wall Paintings (WPD) Programme

Wall Paintings in Sihor Darbargadh, Bhavnagar District, Gujarat: Built in 17 century CE under the patronage of Raol Visoji Sartanji, Raol of Shihora, the Darbargadh refers to the traditional style associated with the fortified residence of rulers in Gujarat. The Darbargadh in Sihor is a two-storey structure featuring a towering gateway that can be accessed by a flight of stairs. The arched entrance has a small vestibule and two bastions – one to the south and the other to the north. The southern bastion leads up to the roof of the gateway, which houses a small room with a pyramidal roof. The facade of the structure features beautiful wooden pillars and intricately carved brackets. The balcony railings are adorned with carved panels in an arched pattern.

According to Pradip Zaveri, the rooms contain wall paintings commissioned by Thakore Vakhatsinhji (1772-1818) to commemorate his victory over his enemies in 1793. The wall paintings in Darbargadh focus on the episode of the Vakhatsinhji's battle fought with Chital state. Traditional Kamangar painters were invited from Kachchh (Kutch), and the paintings were executed after the event. The painting depicts Vakhatsinhji, his commander-in-chief, and his soldiers.

Currently, the structure remains under the ownership of the Royal Family of Bhavnagar. However, it shows signs of distress such as flaking, loss of plaster, vegetal growth, and fungal activity, all of which have contributed to its deterioration.



Thakore Vakhatsinhji riding his mare, Sihun, in a victory procession



Marching army

Lime Research & Testing Centre (LRTC)

A 3-day orientation program on Condition Assessment of Historic Buildings and identifying the Traditional Building Materials for conservation was organized by Lime Research & Testing Centre (LRTC) at ICI, Lucknow in collaboration with the U.P. State Archaeology Department, Lucknow.

The program was held from 24 to 26 September 2025. 100 participants including staff of U.P. State Archaeology, Lucknow and students of archaeology, anthropology and conservation department of Lucknow University and Banaras Hindu University participated in the workshop. The orientation program aimed to provide conservation professionals and heritage enthusiasts with both theoretical knowledge and practical experience in assessing the condition of historic buildings and analysing traditional materials, especially lime-based mortars.



First & second floor of Sihor Darbargadh



Director, ICI Lucknow and staff of lime testing and research centre, giving lecture and demonstrations to the participants



Dr. Aftab Hussain, superintending archaeologist, ASI, U.P. circle presenting certificates to the participants



100 participants attended the workshop



Dino light examination with the participants' workshop

Skill Development/ Capacity Building Programme-Training/Workshops

Indian Association for the Study of Conservation of Cultural Property (IASC), annual conference on September 2025. The following papers were presented:

- Mr. Nilabh Sinha, Principal Director, A&MH division and Mr. Nitin Kumar, Director, ICI Bangalore presented a paper *Bridging the Gap: Challenges and Opportunities in Art Conservation Infrastructure and Education in North-East India*.
- Mohd. Galib, Senior Conservator Delhi presented a paper on *Cost Effective Preservation of Artefacts and Development of a Museum: A case-study on Development & Display of Turiyananda Maharajji belongings at Ramakrishna Kutir, Almora*.
- Ms. Vezotolu Vadeo, Asst Conservator from ICI Delhi presented a paper on *Conservation and Material Analysis of a Painted Thangka: A Comprehensive Treatment Approach*.

Journey into the Ageing & Alterations of Paintings (JAAP) Conference, Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, 24 October 2025. Our scientific research paper titled *True Colours Unveiled: Multi-Analytical Assessment of Lead Pigment Degradation in Indian Miniature Paintings* was presented.

A 3-day Workshop on Cleaning of Stone Objects and Historic Buildings: INTACH Conservation Institutes (ICI), New Delhi and Bhopal Chapter, in collaboration with the Department of Archaeology, Archives and Museums, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, organised the workshop on the *Cleaning of Stone Objects and Historic Buildings* from 5 August to 7 August, 2025 at Bhopal State Museum.

Experts from INTACH Conservation Institutes (ICI) New Delhi provided training to participants including officers from the Department of Archaeology, Archives and Museums, Bhopal, and students from various academic institutions such as the School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal, and Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology, Bhopal, among others.

The 3-day workshop was structured into one day of theoretical sessions including PPT presentations and two days of hands-on practical, including dino light, examination, documentation and cleaning.

A workshop on Analysis of lime and lime mortar in respect to heritage building conservation: Lime Research & Testing Centre, ICI, Lucknow organized a workshop on lime analysis and mortar for the staff of Archaeological Survey of India, Lucknow. This 2-day workshop was divided into two parts: Theoretical Session, conducted on 23.06.2025



Theoretical session at ASI, Lucknow



at ASI, Lucknow and Practical session, conducted on 27.06.2025 at ICI centre. The workshop aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of lime mortar—its historical significance, methods of analysis and its role in conservation practices. The workshop was attended by the Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Lucknow with his staff. The total number of participants was 30.

The program combined theoretical sessions with practical demonstrations to bridge knowledge and skill gaps in heritage conservation. The workshop succeeded in deepening participants understanding of lime mortars and their role in building conservation. It provided practical tools and knowledge to analyse historic mortars and choose compatible materials for restoration. Participants expressed particular appreciation for the practical demonstration, which helped them gain confidence in using analytical techniques.

A 15-day workshop on Preventive/curative conservation of archival objects was organized by INTACH Conservation Institute, Lucknow in collaboration with INTACH Meghalaya Chapter and Meghalaya Age Ltd., from 1 to 16 July 2025 at Baniun Upper Shillong, Meghalaya. 27 students from the History and Bengali Department of Lady Keane College, Shillong participated in the workshop. The objective of the workshop was to develop knowledge to reduce damage and deterioration in archival collections.

A one-day workshop on Preventive conservation of archival and library materials was organized by INTACH Conservation Institute, Lucknow in collaboration with INTACH Ayodhya Chapter, on 17 August 2025 at JBBS Head Office, Ayodhya. 18 participants including librarians from different departments and students of Ram Manohar Lohia University participated in the workshop. The objective of the workshop was to spread understanding about various aspects of preventive conservation such as care, proper display and storage of archival collections.

A one-day workshop on Preventive conservation of archival and library materials was organized by INTACH Conservation Institute Lucknow in collaboration with INTACH Gorakhpur Chapter, on 20 September 2025 at Home Science Deptt., Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gorakhpur University, Gorakhpur. 44 participants including students and librarians from District Library, Nagar Nigam, Gita Vatika and Deen Dayal Upadhyay University, Gorakhpur participated in the workshop. The objective of the workshop was to spread understanding about various aspects of preventive conservation such as care, proper display and storage of archival collection.

A one-day workshop on Preventive Conservation of Canvas Paintings: The workshop focused on comprehensive approach to long term preservation and was conducted on 14 October 2025 at Haldar Hall, College of Arts and Crafts, Lucknow University, Lucknow. The workshop was organized by INTACH Conservation Institute Lucknow in collaboration with the College of Arts and Crafts, Lucknow University, Lucknow. 100 participants including teachers and students of the Faculty of Fine Arts, Lucknow University participated in the workshop. The objective of the workshop was to understand basic aspects in conservation and care of collections.

A one-day workshop on Preventive conservation of archival and library materials was organized by INTACH Conservation Institute, Lucknow in collaboration with INTACH Varanasi Chapter, on 28 October 2025 at Little Flower House, Nagwa, Varanasi. The students of Dept. of Museology, AIH & Archaeology, Social Science, Faculty of Arts, Banaras Hindu University, Dept. of Museology, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, Dept. of History, Vasant Kanya Mahavidyalaya, Varanasi and Dept. of Museology, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak, M.P., participated in the workshop.

The objective of the workshop was to spread understanding about various aspects of preventive conservation such as care, proper display and storage of archival collection.



15-day workshop at Baniun Upper Shillong



1-day workshop at Gorakhpur University



1-day workshop at JBBS head office, Ayodhya



1-day workshop at Little Flower House, Nagwa, Varanasi



Internship Programme

Internship on Conservation of Artifacts: A six-month internship from 1 April to 30 September 2025 was provided to Ms. Ruchi Yadav, a Post Graduate in Ancient Indian History and Archaeology.

The topic of the internship was Conservation of Artifacts. During the internship period, she understood the necessity and significance of appreciation of preventive care of different materials and gained theoretical knowledge as well as practical skills in lime and lime mortar analysis. She also learnt about documentation, photography, scanning work as well as paper and painting conservation.

Internship: A three-week internship from 9 to 28 June 2025 was provided to Ms. Amishi Singhal (class 12 student). The topic of the internship was Preservation of artifacts and basics of lime and mortar. During the internship she understood the necessity and significance of appreciation of preventive care of different materials and gained theoretical knowledge as well as practical skills in lime and lime mortar analysis.



Painting and paper conservation work by intern

Academic Activities

INTACH Conservation Institute Kolkata centre's Senior Conservator Mr. Subash Baral gave a lecture on Restoration of Artefacts and Reading Materials at Bingsha Shatabdi Bookstore on 4 July 2025. He gave an overview on the basic conservation techniques and process used on different objects varying from books, paintings, fabric, paper, terracotta, ceramic, metal, wood, etc.

A seminar on Art Preservation and Career Scope was organized at La Marteniere for Boys on 19 August 2025.



Appreciation of preventive care of different materials: 3-week internship

Preservation and Conservation for Public Libraries (29-08-2025): This Capacity Building and Training Programme was undertaken for Public Library personnel at RRRLF, Block-DD-34, Sector 1, Salt Lake, Kolkata on 29 August 2025. Forty Library professionals from different states of India participated in this training programme. Over days' facilitators from INTACH Conservation Institute, Kolkata delivered talks and organized practical hands-on sessions for understanding the term conservation and restoration, material technology, deteriorating agents and their control, measuring the acidity through pH strips and pH meter, minor repair on torn pages, etc.

Conservation Works by ICI Centres

ICI DELHI

Conservation of Wooden Sculpture: The tradition of creating wooden sculpture with tempera painting on cloth pasted over wooden surfaces represents a relatively unique and lesser-explored art form in comparison to other traditional Indian practices.

The history of wooden sculptures is deeply intertwined with the centuries-old tradition of crafting in Odisha's rath (chariots), particularly for the famous Puri Rath Yatra, rooted in Hindu scriptures and sustained through generations of hereditary craftsmen; the practice forms an integral part of the worship of Lord Jagannath, his brother Balabhadra, and sister Subhadra.



Wooden sculpture before conservation



Showing the hinging and mounting of painting



Patch mending of the loss areas

Odisha's wood carving has a rich heritage, blending classical styles with folk art motif. The carving process involves a range of techniques, from intricate detailing with chisels and knives to modern practices like painting and lacquering. Relief carving, where the design projects from the surface, is also a common technique.

The object is a wooden sculpture depicting a typical attribute of Odisha sculptures. It is executed on cloth with tempera and is pasted on a wooden surface. Fungal residues were observed on the object. The sculpture had abrasion marks and scratches. Flaking and loss of paint layer was also observed. In some areas the

painted cloth layer was missing with lifting of cloth due to moisture. Extensive dust and dirt accumulation made the object appear dark.

The object was decontaminated using an antifungal treatment. The cleaning procedure included removing all previous plaster repairs. To prevent powdering, the sculpture was fully consolidated. The detached parts were reattached after realigning. The area of losses was filled with compatible material and the colour tone of the filling material was reintegrated. A base and support were constructed so that the sculpture could stand upright.

Conservation of Paper Objects: Storing a newspaper poses significant challenges due to the type of paper on which newspapers are printed. Newsprint paper is designed to be inexpensive and disposable, which inherently means it is not intended for longevity. Typically, newsprint is composed of a high percentage of unrefined wood pulp that contains impurities, which remain in the paper after it has been processed. When exposed to ultraviolet light, variations in relative humidity and environmental pollutants, these impurities lead to discoloration and chemical reactions that increase the acidity of the paper. This acidity weakens the bonds between the paper fibers, such as cellulose, causing them to deteriorate and is the primary reason for the paper to become fragile.

We have received floor plans and newspaper clips of important events by Triveni Kala Sangam, New Delhi at ICI for conservation. Floor maps play a crucial role in providing a clear visual representation of a building's layout, facilitating effective communication among architects, builders and clients. They also assist in guiding construction efforts and optimizing the utilization of space, flow and functionality. Furthermore, they are vital for preventing expensive errors, ensuring that the design aligns with specific requirements, and enhancing overall comfort and value.

A cloth was pasted at the back of the object which was detaching; dust and dirt had accumulated across the surface and bugles and waviness were evident. There were fold marks due to creases and tears were noticed on the edges.

Conservation of Oil Painting: Indian paintings celebrate landscapes and sceneries and is one of the most common themes. Since early days, artists have included vast green landscapes as beautiful backgrounds for miniature paintings. In later ages, landscapes were brought out of the background and welcomed as the central theme of paintings. European influences over Indian art brought realism and naturalistic techniques combined with the vibrant imagery of Indian landscapes. Indian artists adopted these and brought landscape paintings to a new platform. These paintings were now decorated with life like depictions of light and shadow,



Lining of the object



Front view of the object after conservation

After conservation



Solvent cleaning of oil painting



Patch mending



Solvent cleaning of textile

meticulous attention towards details, and painterly finesse. The naturalistic beauty of India was now being portrayed through the canvases and brushstrokes of Indian artists.

ICI Delhi has received this oil painting made on canvas, and pasted on board. The painting was received in a damaged condition, where the board at the back turned the canvas acidic, and fragile.

The process of conservation started with removing the original backboard of the painting. For assuring safe removal of the backboard, and protection of the fragile paint layer, the paint layer was given a facing using thin layers of Japanese Tissue. After removing the backboard, the painting was observed to be in a very fragile condition. The next step in the conservation process was to remove the facing, alignment of the parts and tear mending of the tears. Mechanical and solvent cleaning minimized the stains. Patches of a similar canvas were used for patch mending and filling was done to fill the lost parts. In the final stage, the colours were reintegrated and a protective coating applied and stretched on a new auxiliary support.

Conservation of Textile Object: The *Choga* is a flowing, full-length garment with long sleeves and a straight armhole that traces its roots to Central Asia and gained prominence in India throughout the Mughal period. This outer coat serves ceremonial and formal purposes, typically layered over everyday attire. It showcases elaborate needlework, luxurious materials such as silk and wool, and decorative details.

The *Choga* we received for conservation is with silver coated gold *zari* around the lapel, sleeve hem and bottom hem. The outer fabric is made of fine wool and the

inner fabric is made of silk. The object was covered in superficial dirt and dust, with dark stains visible on both the front and back surfaces. The inner lining showed signs of yellowing, and there was notable material loss with holes present on both sides of the garment. Loose threads and fraying *zari* were evident throughout, while the lining fabric had separated from the main body at the neck area and was fraying. Evidence of previous conservation work was seen in intervention stitches on the interior lining.

The conservation process began with mechanical cleaning to remove superficial dirt and dust from the surface. Next the object was tested for colour sensitivity and on passing, given an aqueous immersion bath in deionized water with a non-ionic surfactant. This serves to de-acidify the object while also cleaning it. Areas with holes were stabilized through patch mending using matching red coloured wool for the outer part and matching natural coloured silk for the inner lining, while loose threads and *zari* were carefully tacked into place to prevent further deterioration. The separated lining at the neck was reattached to the main body of the garment. Previous



The Choga after conservation



Map of Improvement Trust of Banaras dating 1930-1950 before and after conservation

intervention stitches were removed and the repairs were redone using current conservation standards.

ICI LUCKNOW

Conservation of Archival Records, Maps:

ICI, Lucknow Centre has started a new project on conservation of archival records, maps, integrated pest management and training program at Varanasi Development Authority (VDA). After the establishment of a temporary laboratory at the site, the work was started by the team on 23 September 2025. The collection of VDA is stored in three places i.e. Archive Section on the ground floor, second floor and third floor in Room no. 47. The maps are kept in map section in Room no.37. Till now 26 maps and 20 record files having 853 folios, have been restored. The maps as well as records were full of dust and dirt with stains, tears, loss of areas, fold marks, brittleness, discolouration, insect attack, numerous creases and fold marks. The records and maps were conserved in a proper scientific manner and handed over to the relevant authority.



Dress of army personnel along with other items before conservation



After conservation and installation kept in show case mannequins

Conservation of the Valuable Collection of Raja Ayodhya: The Centre received another lot of valuable artifacts from a private collection owned by Shri Bimlendra Mohan Pratap Mishra, Raja Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh. The artifacts received for conservation were taxidermy objects and a painting depicting Lord Krishna. The objects were in active deteriorating condition. All the objects were restored in a scientific manner and returned to the relevant authority.

Conservation of Textile Objects, Paintings, Photographs of 11 Gorkha Rifles Regimental Centre, Lucknow: The complete dress of Capt. Manoj Pandey and Lt. PN Datt along with other objects like oil paintings, certificates, photographs, shoes, hockey stick, badges, diary and mouth organ were received for conservation from 11 Gorkha Rifles Regimental Centre, Lucknow. All the objects were kept in a show case at the Regiment. The objects were brought to the laboratory and conserved in a proper scientific manner. Two mannequins were prepared, one for Capt. Manoj Pandey and another for Lt. PN Datt. In complete regalia. All the restored objects along with mannequins prepared were carried back to the Regiment and displayed successfully.

Conservation of archival records of Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad: It is an ongoing project. The books from the Library/Archive and other paper documents of Sabarmati Ashram were received for conservation. All the objects were properly documented in graphic and photographic form. Conservation was followed by a step wise treatment that included disinfection, cleaning with a soft dry brush, neutralization, re-sizing, removal of stains, consolidation, mending of torn areas and small losses, full lining using Nepalese lens tissue paper, preparing new sections, stitching and binding.

Conservation of Rare Books of Holmes Cullinan Library, Nagar Nigam, Gorakhpur: A Second lot of 30 books were received from the collection of Holmes Cullinan Municipal Library, Gorakhpur.

Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) –Storage of Restored Maps: After curative conservation of 205 maps a proper storage system was adopted for keeping restored maps. Some of the restored maps were kept in cabinets and some in holders, by placing silica gel inside. These methods of storage will prevent direct sunlight, effect of moisture, insect infestation and damaging of maps.

Conservation of Painting: A painting titled **Epic of Mahabharata** was received from a private collector for conservation. The size of the painting is 92x61.4 cm and the medium is inlay on wooden panel. The problems noted were dust and dirt accumulation, separation between wooden support and inlay work, major and minor cracks on some



Book before & after conservation



Painting after conservation



Stuffed leopard skin before & after conservation

areas, waviness on wooden support, loss of inlay work and scratches visible on some areas, stains and other issues.

The treatment given was first of all dry cleaning, removal of the wooden panel from the frame, solvent cleaning, flattening of the paint support, consolidation, removal of stains, filling of lost area, joining of cracks, re-integration of filling areas, mending of frame, retouching and finally application of protective coating.

Conservation of Tanjore Paintings:

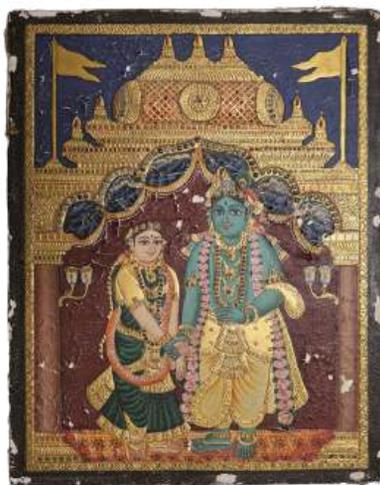
Two mixed media paintings, one Balaji Lakshmi and another Kubera Lakshmi were received for conservation. The problems noted were deposition of dust and dirt on the surface, blackish stone/glass work, gold foil loss, and heavy insect attack in the back of the painting. The treatment given was fumigation by anoxic method, removal of paintings from the frame, dry cleaning, cleaning of stone/glass work, reintegration of lost pigments, application of protective coating and finally reframing of the paintings.

Conservation of Paper Documents of Raja

Balrampur: Textile items, loose documents, printed matter and manuscripts were received from Raja Balrampur for conservation. The problems noted were deposition of dust and dirt, brittleness and discoloration of the paper and other related issues. The treatment given was fumigation, dry cleaning by soft hair brush, documentation (written/photographic),



Before and after conservation



Artwork before conservation recto



Flaking as seen under raking light



Consolidation of flaking paint



Retouching of loss areas



After framing in original frame

removal of binding and stitching and removal of stains. The documents were treated with relevant conservation methods and restored.

ICI BANGALORE

Conservation of a Thanjavur Traditional Painting: At the Centre we had the opportunity to work on a Tanjore traditional painting depicting *Radha Krishna* which had gone through significant deterioration. The paint layer was covered in drying cracks and several areas were flaking from the base. In certain areas, the paint as well as the gouache layer was permanently lost, and the cloth support was visible. Further, the artwork was covered in a layer of dust. On the verso, the wooden base had visible cracks and the frame was loosely tethered by cello tap.

The first step in the conservation process involved the consolidation of the flaking paint layer with conservation grade adhesive. Once it was determined that the paint layer was stable, mechanical and solvent cleaning of the artwork was undertaken. The putty layer was once again reapplied in the loss areas and retouching was carried out.

ICI KOLKATA

Restoration of Oil Painting: Two very old oil portrait paintings were received from Seram-Poore for restoration. The size of the portraits was 20" x 24" and 36" x 31". One of the frames was golden in colour while the smaller frame was brown, black and off white.



Before restoration



After restoration



Reintegration of colour of the painting



Before restoration



During half cleaning



During cleaning



Damaged stretcher of the painting



During cleaning

General Condition: The paintings were previously restored, extremely fragile in condition, with flaking, cracks, loss of support, loss of paint layer, warping, stains, dust and dirt. The first painting showed large tears which require extensive mending. Both paintings showed flaking of paint.

Conservation Treatment: The paintings were dismantled and fumigated first. The flaked paint layer was consolidated by applying a suitable consolidant. Then surface cleaning was completed. The lost portions were mended and lining was given for strengthening the painting. The painting was stretched on a clean stretcher and reintegration was done wherever required. Finally, a protective coating was applied. The painting was reframed with a clean and restored original frame.

Restoration of Oil Painting: An oil painting on canvas was received for restoration. The size of the painting was 30" x 24". The frame was wooden and brown in colour.

General Condition: The painting was affected by termite and in an extremely fragile condition. **Conservation Treatment:** The painting was dismantled from its frame and stretcher, followed by fumigation to eliminate insect pests. The flaked paint layer was consolidated by applying a suitable consolidant. Then surface cleaning was completed and relevant conservation methods applied to restore it.

Restoration of Oil Painting: Fifteen oil paintings were received from Mahajati Sadan for restoration in mid-October. The collection comprises paintings of freedom fighters, writers, poets, and scientists in various sizes. The paintings were in extremely fragile and damaged condition. The portrait of Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose was badly damaged.



Before manual restoration



After manual restoration

So far, three paintings have been dismantled from their frame and stretcher, followed by fumigation to eliminate insect pests. The conservation work is ongoing.

Restoration of Black and White Photograph: A black and white photograph received from Tripura House was restored by INTACH Calcutta. The size of the portraits was 21.5"x16". The photograph was without frame.

Restoration of Cartoon Book: A copy of the first issue of Indian Cartoons from 1921 edited by B. Gangooly was received. This vintage copy serves as a tangible proof of satirical comic art from Bengal. It contains 10 portraits by Miss K Roy, G.N. Tagore, B. Gangooly, Mr. Phillip Greaves and Miss Macleod.

ICI BUHUBANESHWAR

Conservation of Paper Manuscripts of The KR Cama Oriental Institute Library, Mumbai – Phase XVI: The K.R. Cama Oriental Institute Library has a large collection of rare manuscripts and books. This historically important collection is in urgent need of conservation treatment. Previously from 2003 to 2020, conservation of 5,01,261 sheets of important paper manuscripts, journals and rare volumes of books has been completed by INTACH Conservation Institute, Bhubaneswar.

Phase - XVI work from of Conservation of Paper Manuscripts and Books of The KR Cama Oriental Institute Library, Mumbai has been started from 11 August 2025. In this phase conservation of 30,000 sheets will be completed to cater 100 books on an average.

Conservation of Archival Records and Documents at Tata Central Archives, Pune: After having completed four phases of conservation work of around 22000 sheets and valuable records of Tata Central Archives (TCA) at Pune, an important collection of records, letters, newspaper cuttings etc. belonging to the prestigious family and company of TATA from 2011-2025 in various phases, are being taken upon invitation by TCA, Pune. ICI Bhubaneswar has started conservation of Archival Records and Documents at Tata Central Archives, Pune for the year 2025-26. The Documents under conservation are family records, company records and files, Newspaper cuttings, Legal documents, etc.

Conservation work of Oil painting, sketches and Line Drawings on Paper at the ICI BBSR Centre: Important Oil Paintings on Canvas, Sketches and line drawings on papers belonging to private art collectors of Bhubaneswar were conserved at the Art Conservation Centre in September 2025.



Conservator at work at KR Cama Library



Paper sketches, before and after restoration



Conservation work being undertaken at TCA, Pune



Conservation of a bound volume, before and after restoration

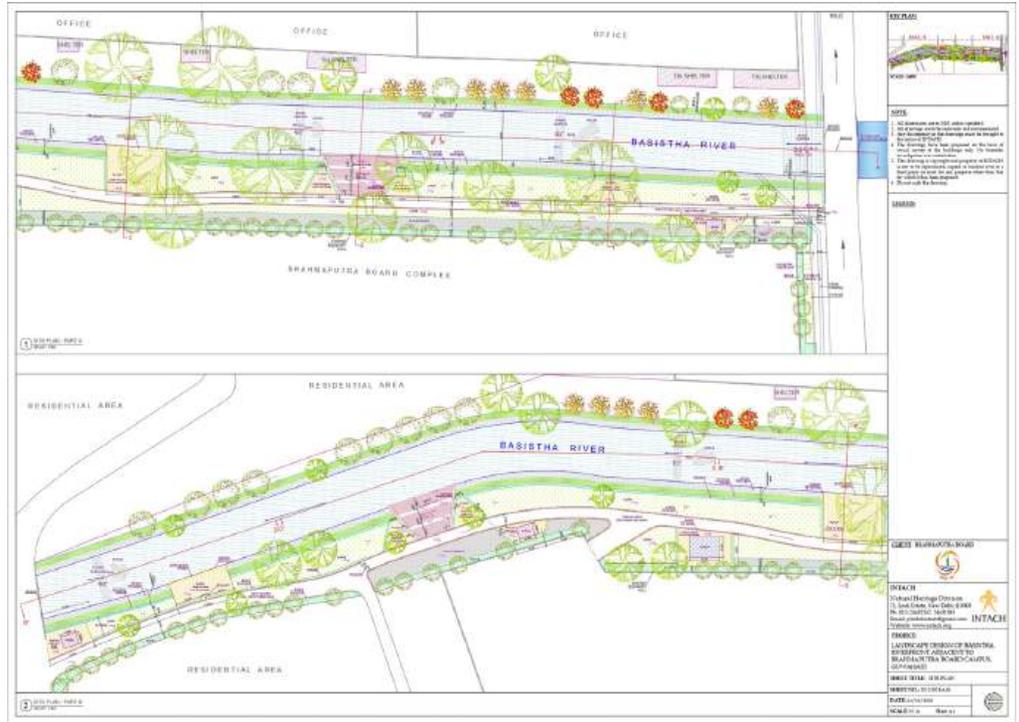


NATURAL HERITAGE DIVISION

NH Division has been engaged in meaningful projects supported by sponsors and research/documentation works supported by Special Corpus Funds.

Landscaping for Riverfront Development of Basistha River, Guwahati, Assam

The Landscaping for Riverfront Development of the Basistha River in Guwahati, Assam is funded by the Brahmaputra Board which aims to enhance the aesthetic and ecological value of the riverfront while contributing significantly to the landscape development of the Brahmaputra Board premises. The project's concept design envisions transforming a neglected riverfront into a citizen-friendly, vibrant, and sustainable public space. Emphasizing green infrastructure over concrete, the design seeks to minimize environmental impact, stabilize riverbanks, and enrich the local ecosystem. The project also focuses on biodiversity enhancement by creating habitats for native flora and fauna, thereby improving the region's ecological health. Blending modern architectural elements with natural features, the riverfront will offer a visually appealing and serene environment with captivating views of the Basistha River.



Landscaping design of Basistha river, Guwahati, Assam

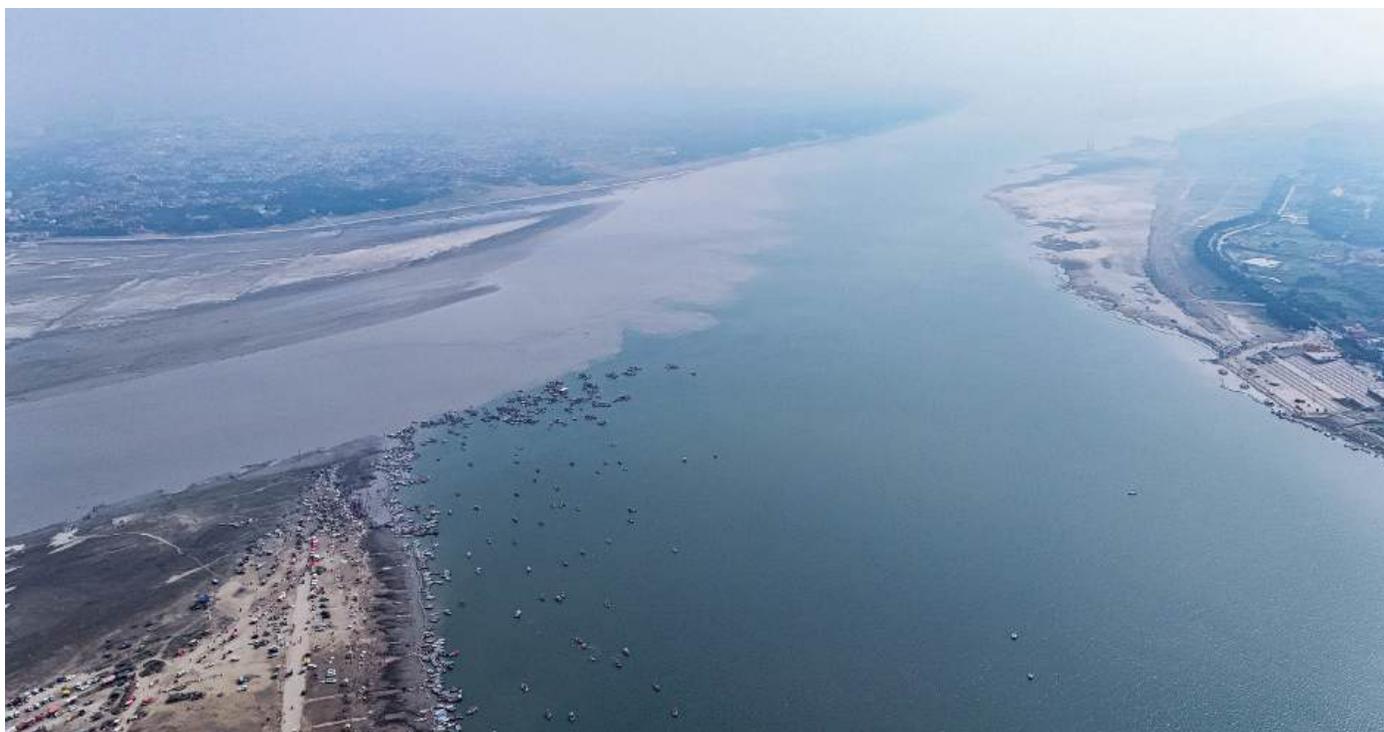
River Conservation, Bioremediation & Landscaping of Wah-Umkrah, Shillong

The project, funded by the Shillong Municipal Board and undertaken by INTACH, aims to abate pollution in the river through nature-based solutions while converting the river banks into public spaces for the citizens. The initiative focuses on creating public spaces along the riverfront, promoting community interaction and environmental stewardship.

To improve water quality and ecological balance, the project incorporates coir filtration systems at selected locations, along with bacterial bioremediation and cascading aeration structures at steeper gradients. Together, these interventions



Aerial view of a Majuli Island in the Brahmaputra river



Aerial view of Sangam at Prayagraj

are designed to rejuvenate the river system, enhance its ecological health, and transform it into a sustainable and accessible urban waterway.

Towards a Policy for Riverine Islands in the Brahmaputra River

This project, funded by the Brahmaputra Board, aims to develop a comprehensive policy framework for the sustainable management and conservation of riverine islands (chars) in the Brahmaputra River. These islands are dynamic landforms with unique ecological, cultural, and socio-economic significance, yet they remain highly vulnerable to erosion, flooding, and developmental neglect. The work has involved field surveys, satellite imagery interpretation, literature survey, legal audit.

Cultural Documentation of Yamuna River

The Yamuna Cultural Documentation Project is designed to comprehensively document the architectural, intangible, and natural heritage of districts situated

along the Yamuna River, from Yamunotri to Sangam, within a 5-7 km buffer zone. The scope of the project includes traditional buildings, local songs, rituals, natural landscapes, and other cultural and ecological elements that reflect the rich heritage of the Yamuna River basin. Out of 31 districts field work and reports for 18 districts are ready. A film on Yamuna and a publication have been initiated.

A Basic Course in Understanding, Documentation and Conservation of Rivers for CSOs

India's rivers are confronting a serious crisis—marked not only by visible pollution but also by the alarming decline in river flows and the drying of riverbeds. Although agencies such as the Central Water Commission (CWC) and National Water Development Agency (NWDA) have made significant progress in monitoring major rivers, smaller rivers, tributaries, and seasonal streams—which are crucial to sustaining the larger river ecosystem—have remained largely undocumented and overlooked.

To address this critical gap, the Natural Heritage Division of INTACH, in collaboration with the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), has initiated the development of an online course aimed at strengthening foundational knowledge on river systems and their conservation. The course will encompass essential themes such as river morphology, sediment dynamics, ecosystem components, and restoration strategies.

By fostering a decentralized and informed network of “river guardians,” the program is actively bridging community-driven efforts with institutional frameworks. This collaborative approach will ensure that even the smallest streams and tributaries are recognized and protected as vital elements of India's comprehensive river rejuvenation movement.

The project lies in its final phase, with 11 modules in English and Hindi and is in the process of post-production for a final release.



CSR Projects

Rejuvenation of Indian Botanic Garden, Howrah

The Rejuvenation of Indian Botanic Garden is a three-year project funded by HSBC. Having successfully completed the first two years, the project is now in its third and final year of implementation. The key activities planned for this phase include lake cleaning, construction of two interconnecting channels, mangrove plantation, and plantation of exotic species.

During the second quarter of the third year, vendors have been continuously engaged in the lake cleaning operations. The King and Prain lakes, which were cleaned in the previous quarter, have been properly maintained during this period. Dhobi Lake, Coolie Lane Lake, and the lake behind Nursery 2 are presently undergoing cleaning. Bioremediation dosing is being carried out as per the approved proposal.

Two species of sandalwood saplings have been procured for plantation. The mangrove plantation has been completed, and regular maintenance activities are ongoing. Additionally, invasive vegetation is being routinely removed as part of the lake cleaning efforts.

Landscape Conservation and Habitat Restoration in Middle Himalayas

Over the past five years, the Natural Heritage Division of INTACH, in collaboration with the HCL Foundation, has undertaken a significant ecological restoration initiative in the Chamoli and Almora districts of Uttarakhand. Focused on reviving the fragile Himalayan ecosystem, the project has planted over 31,000 saplings of endangered native species like Rudraksh and Bhojpatra, restoring more than 30 acres of degraded land. Beyond afforestation, the initiative embraces a holistic ecological strategy, incorporating biodiversity documentation, habitat enhancement, and pollinator support through measures like insect hotels.

Key ecological practices include bio fencing with native shrubs to protect



Bioremediation bacteria being dosed into the lake using a mechanized spray system



The plantation has re-affirmed the ecological value of the region by restoring the habitat for various local animal and bird species, proving confirmation of the plantations wide ranging ecological importance

plantations, promote natural regeneration, and prevent soil erosion. The integration of applied ecology—blending scientific methods with traditional knowledge—has improved habitat conditions, soil health, and seed dispersal. A biodiversity inventory cataloguing over 300 species of flora and fauna has laid the groundwork for long-term monitoring and conservation planning, reinforcing the ecological impact of the project.

Central to the initiative’s success is its strong community involvement. Local residents have become active stewards of the landscape, participating in planting, maintenance, wildlife monitoring, and integrating ecological efforts with cultural practices. What started as a plantation drive has evolved into a thriving, community-led conservation model—one that restores native biodiversity, fosters human-nature connections, and offers a scalable blueprint for ecological resilience in the Himalayan region.

Special Corpus Fund Projects

Documentation of Traditional Boats/Ships Building in India

India's extensive coastline and intricate river systems have nurtured a centuries-old tradition of wooden boat-building, deeply embedded in regional cultures and local livelihoods. In response to the rapid disappearance of these time-honoured practices, the Natural Heritage Division (NHD) of INTACH has undertaken to document traditional wooden boats and indigenous boat – and ship-building techniques in India. As modern and industrial alternatives increasingly replace these heritage crafts, there is an urgent need to record and conserve this intangible legacy before it is lost.

Field surveys Uttar Pradesh have revealed a rich repository of traditional knowledge, much of which survives only through oral traditions. The surveys underscore a swift shift towards fiber and metal boats, driven by affordability and efficiency, which is leading to the decline of traditional boat-building methods. In Prayagraj, the tradition of building metal-based boats with wooden decks has been practiced for the past 20 to 25 years, showcasing construction methods distinct from those used in other parts of the country. The base and ribs of these boats are typically crafted from Sal wood, while teak wood is used for other components to help reduce construction costs. Nearby Ramnagar, near Varanasi, has emerged as a major center for boat building, particularly renowned for producing Bajrao and Cruiser boats, with as many as ten boats being constructed simultaneously at certain times.

Boat waterproofing near Adi Keshav Ghat, Varanasi

However, the continuity of traditional boat-building faces several critical challenges. These include the absence of formal documentation, weakening generational transmission of skills, and the decreasing economic feasibility of the craft. Communities like the Nishads are particularly affected, as modern materials outpace wooden construction in both cost and convenience. Additionally, environmental restrictions on sourcing native timber further hinder traditional practices. With no blueprints or technical records in existence, this craft relies entirely on oral knowledge, which is rapidly vanishing as skilled artisans age without successors. Without conservation and documentation, India stands to lose a vital part of its maritime and cultural heritage.

A Survey of the Lesser Salt Lakes of India

Wetlands are vital components of the hydrological system, yet many remain underappreciated and under threat—particularly saline and brackish lakes, which are among the least studied wetland types in India. Found mainly in endorheic basins of semi-arid regions like Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Ladakh, these unique ecosystems host salinity levels ranging from 3 to 300 ppt and are sustained through a delicate balance of inflows and evaporation. The lakes serve as a key wintering ground for migratory birds along the Central Asian Flyway, and lack focused scientific research and comprehensive conservation strategies.

Sequential stages of salt preparation at Didwana Salt Lake, Rajasthan

To address this gap, the Natural Heritage Division has initiated a project to conduct preliminary ecological assessments of lesser-known saline wetlands, with a focus on their biodiversity, environmental status, and socio-cultural importance.

Preparation of Conservation Plan for Bein System, Punjab

The Bein River system in Punjab, comprising the Kali Bein and White Bein (Chitti Bein), is vital to the ecological and cultural fabric of the Doaba region. The Kali Bein, flowing through Sultanpur Lodhi, holds spiritual significance as the site where Guru Nanak Dev Ji attained enlightenment. Once clean and seasonal, it has suffered due to sewage discharge, solid waste dumping, and encroachments. The White Bein, originating in the Shivalik foothills, carries perennial flow but faces pressures from sand mining, urban runoff, and agricultural pollution. Both rivers are crucial for local agriculture, groundwater recharge, and biodiversity, yet they are now severely degraded. Conserving the Bein system is essential for environmental restoration and water security in Punjab.

Sacred Landscapes Network of India

A comprehensive study is being undertaken to identify sacred geographies across India. The resulting thematic mapping will serve as a documentation tool for sacred grove reserves, while also promoting cultural recognition and ecological conservation.



Community Knowledge

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

INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Yamuna Cultural Documentation Project

The Yamuna Cultural Documentation Project is a heritage preservation project commissioned by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India. As part of this project, the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Division has undertaken a comprehensive study and documentation of the historical and cultural legacy embedded within every district through which the Yamuna River flows, encompassing the states of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Delhi-NCR, and Uttar Pradesh.

Members of the ICH team undertake extensive field expeditions across numerous districts, engaging directly with local communities whose cultural traditions and livelihoods are woven into the fabric of the Yamuna River, manifesting in both tangible and intangible forms. The research methodology encompasses the identification and documentation of sacred and historical sites associated with the river, alongside the preservation of living cultural expressions including folk dances, traditional songs, and community festivals. This project marks the first systematic attempt to document the Yamuna's multifaceted heritage in order to illuminate and strengthen the river's cultural identity. This endeavour holds particular importance as it safeguards these diverse cultural elements for future generations to study, appreciate, and draw inspiration from.

The fieldwork has yielded remarkable discoveries, revealing artisan traditions, culinary heritage, and customary practices of each district that has been covered so far. Recent notable findings include the Kairana Gharana of Shamli that instructed students in a unique synthesis of Hindu dhrupad and Islamic khayal musical traditions; the exquisite murals adorning historic havelis of Saharanpur that showcase regional artistic excellence; and the historic locksmith industry of Aligarh that stands as a testimony of the city's Mughal heritage.

Currently, the team is in the final stages of completing comprehensive reports on the districts of Baghpat, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Ghaziabad, and Aligarh.



The bust of dronacharya covered by a silver mask to prevent further decay, Gautam Buddha Nagar



Backstage with the props of the Parsi theatre of Dankaur, Gautam Buddha Nagar



Haleem at Aligarh



The chamcham of Iglas tehsil, Aligarh



A burj of Loni Fort, Ghaziabad



A bout in the akhada, Ghaziabad



Khereshwar Mahadev Mandir, Aligarh



Gaja Lok: Elephant Lands and their Cultural Symbolism in Asia

The *Gaja Lok* project aims to explore the deep cultural, ecological, and artistic associations of elephants across Asia. Conceived as a multidisciplinary initiative, it brings together research, conservation awareness, and creative expression to highlight the elephant as a unifying symbol across diverse Asian traditions. The project envisions a series of events, exhibitions, and publications that engage experts, institutions, and the public in understanding the enduring relationship between humans and elephants.

Preparations are currently underway for the *Gaja Lok* roundtable discussion scheduled to be held on 20 November 2025. The roundtable will serve as a platform for dialogue among scholars, conservationists, and cultural practitioners to deliberate on themes that will inform the larger exhibition and accompanying programmes.

A project overview has been prepared to articulate the objectives, scope, and key components of *Gaja Lok*, serving as a guiding document for collaborators and participants. Alongside the roundtable, a small-scale exhibition is being organized to introduce the project's themes.

Together, these efforts mark a significant step forward in shaping *Gaja Lok* into a meaningful and multidimensional exploration of the elephant's role in Asia's natural and cultural heritage.



Sattriya performance, Assam

Screening of “Kan-Kan Mein Ram (The Eternal Ram)”

A special screening for the release of the ICH documentary film “*Kan-Kan Mein Ram*” was organised on 23 July 2025 at the INTACH Multipurpose Hall, New Delhi. The event was graced by the presence of Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Hon'ble Minister for Culture and Tourism, Government of India, along with senior officials, scholars, and invited guests. The Hon'ble Minister was warmly welcomed by Shri Ashok Singh Thakur, Chairman, INTACH, and Shri Ravindra Singh, IAS (Retd.), Member Secretary, INTACH and Smt. Nerupama Modwel, Principal Director, ICH Division. Sh. Thakur said INTACH's



Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Hon'ble Minister for Culture and Tourism, Government of India, lighting the lamp of knowledge. Shri Ashok Singh Thakur, Chairman and Shri Ravindra Singh (IAS Retd.) Member Secretary, are looking on



Elephant relief on the wall of the steps, Brihadeshwara Temple, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu



Rock-cut sculpture of Ganesha located in the Udayagiri Caves in Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh



Harappan era bronze sculpture of elephant displayed at the National Museum, New Delhi



Yakshagana performance, Karnataka



Ravan Chhaya performance, Odisha

sphere of work covers a whole range of diverse initiatives in tangible, intangible and natural heritage, as well as work with schools, crafts and publications, to ensure the proper promotion and dissemination of our glorious heritage.

The documentary offers an in-depth look at the various representations of the Ramayana in India, spanning diverse forms such as ritualistic performances, dance-dramas, and puppetry. Notable traditions featured include the Yakshagana and Uppinakudru puppetry of Karnataka, Lanka Podi Yatra and Ravan Chaya in Odisha, Sattriya traditions in Assam, Mewati Bhang performance, and the Ramnami Samaj in Chhattisgarh. The film celebrates the cultural diversity and enduring legacy of the Ramayana as seen through the lens of India's performing arts.

In his remarks to the gathering after the screening of the film, the Hon'ble Minister noted with appreciation the efforts of the INTACH team and the filmmakers in presenting the story of the Ramayana as a

historical and cultural narrative, and a living tradition that binds the entire country with its universal message. He also stressed on how the years of hard work and authentic research has formalized into a visual document in the form of the '*Kan-Kan Mein Ram*' film which was screened. He noted that it is not just a visual treat but a compendium incorporating universal emotions and a connect with the greatest epic of mankind.

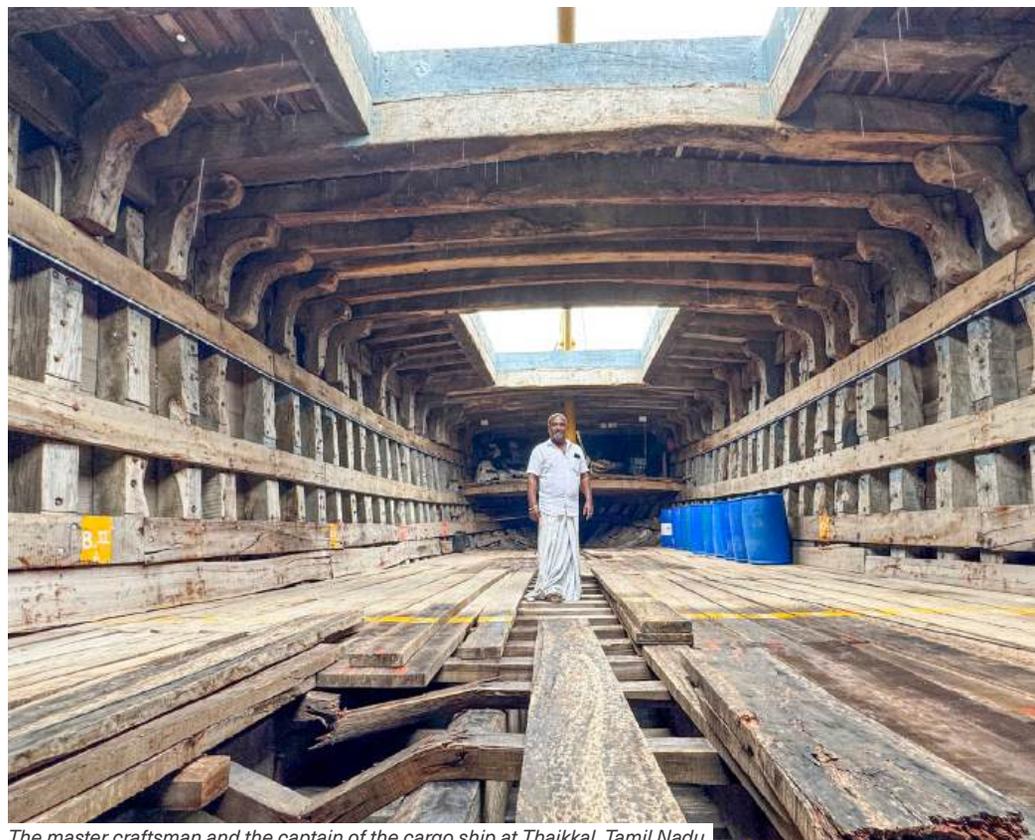
He remarked that India is undergoing a period of cultural renaissance in which organisations like INTACH play a pivotal role. He elaborated that given INTACH's four decades of experience in the cultural heritage field in India, it has consistently delivered authentic and quality work. He mentioned that when he was in the Ministry of Jal Shakti, he had already seen the capability and output of INTACH in delivering excellent work in a stipulated time period, in the form of the Ganga Cultural Documentation project. INTACH has played a major role in understanding the cultural footprint of India, be it in the affected areas of the river Ganga or in the entire Ganga basin.



Fishermen looking at their fresh catch, Chilika lake, Orissa

Flowing Legacies: Mapping the Intangible Heritage of India's Maritime and Riverine Cultures

India's coastline and river networks have long been arteries of cultural exchange, livelihood, and faith. The *Flowing Legacies* project, undertaken by INTACH, continues to explore this living relationship between people and water, tracing how maritime and riverine traditions have evolved yet endured across generations. Through field-based documentation, oral histories, and collaborations with local institutions, the project seeks to understand how traditional knowledge, craftsmanship, and rituals continue to define communities along India's shores and rivers.



The master craftsman and the captain of the cargo ship at Thakkal, Tamil Nadu



Fisherwomen at Cuddalore Jetty fish market

The first phase of fieldwork, conducted along the Godavari and the Konkan coast, documented the enduring culture of wooden boat-building, fishing techniques, and ritual practices in Maharashtra and Goa. The research highlighted the deep interconnection between ecology, livelihood, and belief, revealing how communities adapt to new technologies while retaining inherited knowledge of water and weather.

The second phase, carried out from 24-31 October 2025, moved east to Tamil Nadu and Odisha. In Chennai, Cuddalore, and Thakkal, and later in Bhubaneswar, Chilika Lake, and Mangalajodi, the team met fishermen, boat builders, and fisherwomen who shared stories of resilience and change. Conversations revealed detailed ecological knowledge—how to read tides, stars, and winds—as well as reflections on the shift from wooden to FRP boats, changing fish patterns, and the impact of climate change. The team also collaborated with the Institut Français de Pondichéry and Dakshina Chitra Museum to study historic cargo routes, shipbuilding traditions, and contemporary museum efforts to preserve maritime culture.

The next phase will focus on Assam and West Bengal, tracing the living traditions of the Brahmaputra and Hooghly rivers. By connecting inland waterways with coastal practices, *Flowing Legacies* aims to build a comprehensive picture of India’s maritime heritage as a story not just of boats and trade, but of memory, adaptation, and continuity.



Palayam Anna, engrossed in explaining parts of a Catamaran model, Chennai



Shri Ravindra Singh, IAS (Retd.), Member Secretary, INTACH, giving the inaugural speech to the IFS Officers

Collaboration with Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS): “Understanding Indian Heritage Conservation” Workshop at INTACH for the Foreign Service Officers batch of 2024

This initiative was developed by the ICH Division to equip IFS officers undergoing training at the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS) with a deeper understanding and appreciation of India’s heritage and its relevance to soft power, cultural diplomacy, and sustainable global partnerships.

On 7 August, 2025, Foreign Service Officers of the 2024 batch visited INTACH to attend the Programme organized by the ICH Division, with the aid of the Cultural Affairs Division, and with the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) as a training module titled “Understanding Indian Heritage Conservation”. The batch was addressed by Shri Ravindra Singh (IAS Retd.), Member Secretary, who gave an overview of the cultural sector in India. A Heritage Quiz was conducted by renowned Quizmaster Kunal Savarkar, adding an engaging and interactive element to the programme. A visit to INTACH’s conservation labs was also organised to introduce them to the conservation processes. The programme was well received by the participants, who appreciated the opportunity to engage with multiple facets of India’s cultural heritage.



Quizmaster Kunal Savarkar conducting the INTACH Heritage Quiz, with Member Secretary, Shri Ravindra Singh (IAS Retd.) and Principal Directors of INTACH

Organized Event with Senior Foreign Service Officers at the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Services (SSIFS)

On 25 August, 2025, four Principal Directors of INTACH, Ms. Nerupama Y. Modwel (ICH), Mr. Manu Bhatnagar (Natural Heritage), Ms. Vijaya Amujure (Architectural Heritage) and Mr. Nilabh Sinha (Art and Material Heritage), visited the SSIFS institute in New Delhi to interact with and make presentations on the preservation and status of Indian art and cultural heritage for the mid-career training programme for 27 Senior Indian Foreign Service Officers.

Social Media Engagement and Outreach

The ICH Division has strived to maintain an active social media presence by curating quality content across its various social media platforms. Members of the division have made posts on a wide variety of topics and projects, not limited to, 'Yamuna Cultural Documentation Project', 'ICH Division-produced films', 'Foods of India', and 'Understanding Indian Heritage Conservation Workshop with ICCR', among many others. Utilizing footage and data procured by the division on the field, these posts are not only visually profound but also highlight the cultural legacy of India's traditions.



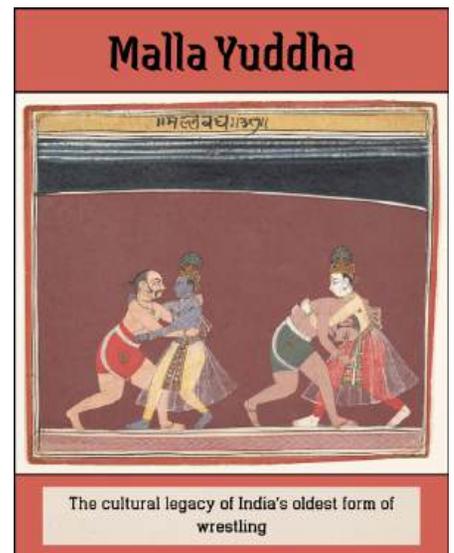
The crowd enthusiastically participating in the quiz



Visit to the INTACH Conservation Lab



The Principal Directors of INTACH with some of the Senior IFS Officers



Instagram post on the history of Malla Yuddha



Gaja-Lok: Elephant Lands and Their Cultural Symbolism in Asia

Organised by the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Division, INTACH

The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), through its Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Division, launched Gaja-Lok: Elephant Lands and their Cultural Symbolism in Asia, an initiative that explores the cultural, historical, ecological, and climate-resilience narratives surrounding the Asian elephant. Designed as a cross-border cultural effort, Gaja-Lok highlights the shared heritage of elephant-range countries across Asia, where the elephant stands as both a cultural symbol and an indicator of ecological well-being.

The programme commenced with the Gaja-Lok Exhibition and Roundtable, bringing together academicians, cultural experts, conservationists, and heritage professionals. These events mark the start of a multi-country dialogue that positions the elephant as a living emblem of cultural identity and ecological resilience.



Presentation of INTACH Publications to the Chief Guest, Shri Vivek Agarwal, I.A.S., Secretary, Ministry of Culture, by Shri Ashok Singh Thakur, Shri Ravindra Singh, I.A.S. (Retd.), Ms. Nerupama Y. Modwel, and Shri Manu Bhatnagar



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



A walkthrough of the exhibition by the Chief Guest



The Project Gaja-Lok Roundtable Discussions



Shri Vivek Agarwal, I.A.S, Secretary, Ministry of Culture addressing the Project Gaja-Lok Roundtable Discussions

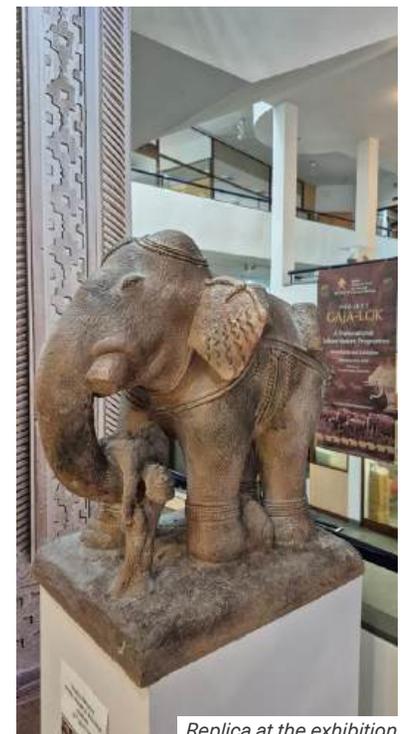


INTACH Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Division Team with Shri Ashok Singh Thakur, Chairman, INTACH, and Shri Ravindra Singh, I.A.S. (Retd.), Member Secretary, INTACH

The day opened with a ceremonial lamp lighting by the Chief Guest, Shri Vivek Agarwal, I.A.S., Secretary, Ministry of Culture, in the presence of Shri Ashok Singh Thakur, Chairman, INTACH, and Shri Ravindra Singh, I.A.S. (Retd.), Member Secretary, INTACH, followed by an introduction to the project by Ms. Nerupama Y. Modwel, Principal Director, ICH Division, INTACH. **The Gaja-Lok Roundtable gathered distinguished experts including:**

Prof. Raman Sukumar, Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore; Mr. Vivek Menon, Chair, IUCN Species Survival Commission and Founder & ED, Wildlife Trust of India; Dr. Vinod Mathur, Former Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority of India and Former Director, Wildlife Institute of India; Dr. Khalid Pasha, IUCN Asia Regional Coordinator, Bangkok; Mr. Ravi Singh, Secretary General & CEO, WWF-India; Ms. Sujatha Shankar, Architect and Convenor, INTACH Chennai Chapter; Dr. Nanditha Krishna, President, C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation, Chennai; Prof. Archana Shastri, Former Director, Mekong-Ganga Cooperation Asian Traditional Textile Museum, Siem Reap, Cambodia; Dr. N.V.K. Ashraf, Wildlife Trust of India; Dr. Arun Venkataraman, Technical Consulting Director, ERM; Prof. Mahesh Rangarajan, Historian, Ashoka University; Ms. Ina Puri, Writer, Biographer, and Art Curator; Prof. Ali Anooshahr, Historian, University of California.

The Gaja-Lok exhibition presented six thematic panels that trace the long-standing human-elephant relationship – from prehistoric art and ancient trade connections to religious symbolism, royal traditions, and ecological interactions. More than a cultural programme, Gaja-Lok celebrates the enduring bond between humans and elephants. By bridging scholarship and international cooperation, the initiative seeks to foster a collective commitment to cultural heritage, conservation, and ecological stewardship across Asia.



Replica at the exhibition



HERITAGE CRAFT AND COMMUNITY DIVISION

Calligraphy Workshop at Sunbeam School, Varanasi in collaboration with the INTACH Varanasi Chapter

The Heritage Craft and Community Division (HCCD), in collaboration with the INTACH Varanasi Chapter conducted a 3-day calligraphy workshop at the Sunbeam School from 6-8 August 2025. The workshop, aimed at generating awareness amongst students about the importance of the *Devanagiri* script, was graced by Chairman – INTACH, Shri. Ashok Singh Thakuron the concluding day. The workshop was a huge success and appreciated by the students and teachers alike.



Students and teachers engaged in the calligraphy workshop

Visit to the Peshwa Haveli, Varanasi

Chairman, INTACH, Shri. Ashok Singh Thakur, accompanied by Head-HCCD, Ms. Bindu Vandana Manchanda; Mr. Ashok Kapoor-Convenor-Varanasi Chapter and other members of INTACH Varanasi Chapter visited the Peshwa Haveli. Chairman examined the premises and also viewed the exhibitions on display followed by a discussion on various matters with the team.



Chairman INTACH, Shri. Ashok Singh Thakur trying his hand at the Devnagari calligraphy script

MoU between INTACH and Panjab University, Chandigarh

Head-HCCD, Ms. Bindu Vandana Manchanda visited the Panjab University, Chandigarh to finalize the MoU and other collaborative initiatives between INTACH and Panjab University.

Developing the proposal for the Museum of Manuscripts and Antiquity, Hoshiarpur

Head-HCCD, Ms. Bindu Vandana Manchanda and the HCCD Team have been involved in the preparation of a detailed project report and proposal for the the Museum of Manuscripts and Antiquity to be established at the Vishveshvaranand Vishwa Bandhu Institute of Sanskrit and Indological Studies (VVBIS&IS) Campus, Hoshiarpur. The detailed project report is to be submitted to the Ministry of Culture under the Museum Grant Scheme. The museum will prove to be pivotal in tracing the history of Hoshiarpur along with thriving crafts, with a special emphasis on the display of rare birchbark and palm leaf manuscripts.



Chairman INTACH, Shri. Ashok Singh Thakur; Head-HCCD, Bindu Vandana Manchanda; Shri. Ashok Kapoor-Convenor Varanasi Chapter; Shri Inku Kumar, Calligrapher and other members of the Varanasi Chapter at the closing ceremony of the workshop

Launch of the Puneri Saree Revival Project

The Division is pleased to announce the successful launch of a distinctive range of revived designs under the Puneri Saree Weaving Project undertaken by HCCD in collaboration with the INTACH Pune and Anegundi-Hampi Chapter. The humble looking Puneri sarees celebrate the enduring legacy and craftsmanship of this traditional textile. The sarees were launched at an event held in Pune on 27 September, 2025 which was inaugurated by eminent personalities.



Designs revived under the project



Chairman INTACH, Shri. Ashok Singh Thakur, accompanied by Head-HCCD, Bindu Vandana Manchanda; Mr. Ashok Kapoor, Convenor, Varanasi Chapter and other members of INTACH Varanasi Chapter at the Peshwa Haveli



HCCD Team undertaking cataloguing, basic analysis and photographic documentation of the artefacts



Some exquisite stone sculptures and terracotta figurines in the collection of the Parshwanath Vidyapeeth

HCCD Team's visit to Parshwanath Vidyapeeth, Varanasi

The team visited the Vidyapeeth in September to document the artefacts in possession with the organization. Happening in collaboration with the INTACH Varanasi Chapter, it is proposed to develop a concept for museum display for Parshwanath Vidyapeeth. The HCCD Team is scheduled to present the preliminary museum concept to the Jain Trust of Parshwanath Vidyapeeth on 31 October, 2025 at the INTACH Headquarters.

Upgradation of the Exhibition Panels for Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC)

The HCCD team is working on the upgradation and enhancement of the exhibition panels exhibited at the Jor Bagh, Green Park and Hauz Khas Metro Stations through frequent visits and meetings with the designer and installation team.



HCCD Team with DMRC Officials at the Jor Bagh Metro station

Revival of Tangaliya Weaving, Kutch, Gujarat – in collaboration with INTACH Rajkot Chapter

The Division is pleased to announce that the proposal centered on the Revival of Tangaliya Weaving, a traditional weaving technique practiced in the interiors of Kutch, Gujarat that is fast disappearing has been approved and HCCD will soon be initiating work in collaboration with the INTACH Rajkot Chapter.

Sacred Waste Training Workshop at Gorakhpur in collaboration with the INTACH Gorakhpur Chapter

The HCCD team successfully trained 25 rural women during the Sacred Waste Training Workshop held at Gorakhpur in October, 2025 in collaboration with the INTACH Gorakhpur Chapter. The women, residing in Gorakhpur and nearby villages, were meticulously trained to convert floral offerings collected from temples into incense sticks through the course of the workshop. During the training workshop, the participants also learned to repurpose leftover parts of the flowers into compost, promoting sustainable waste management and contributing to eco-friendly practices in their communities. By the end of the four days, the workshop equipped participants with practical skills, livelihood opportunities, and knowledge about circular craft practices, fostering both economic empowerment and environmental responsibility.



The participants in action at the workshop



Incense sticks made by the participants left to dry



Participants, HCCD team and INTACH Gorakhpur team on the concluding day of the workshop



Documentation of the Murti Making Traditions of India

The Division has completed the research and compilation of *Darbhanga and Mithila Region* Murti Style – Mithila Clay and Papier-Mâché Murtis; *Muzaffarpur and Vaishali Belt* Murti Style – Folk Terracotta and Ritual Clay Figures; *Gaya Region* Murti Style – Stone Murti Carving (Black Stone); *Champaran Region* Murti Style – Folk idols for rural goddess worship; *Chot Nagpur Plateau Fringe* (now parts in Bihar and Jharkhand).

Tribal and Adivasi Influence – Sarna, Oraon, and Munda Tribal Murtis made in stone, wood and clay; *Urban Patna and Bhagalpur* Murti Style – Durga Puja and Saraswati Puja murtis made using clay and straw.

In Jharkhand, we covered the districts of Ranchi and Hazaribagh for their traditional terracotta figures and Pahan Murtis linked to tribal rituals. In addition to that, we also documented stone, metal, and wood Murti-making practices, as well as Dokra craft of both states, where artisans use the lost-wax process to create brass Murtis, ritual objects, and tribal figures.

In Assam, artisans create Durga Murtis using finely woven bamboo frameworks, layered with local clay and painted with natural colors. The framework itself is a craft tradition, reflecting the ecological abundance of bamboo in the region. In Tripura, Murti making is rooted in generational knowledge, where artisans mold clay with practiced ease and devotion. The Murtis, often completed with organic paints, embody both ritual significance and artisanal heritage. In Manipur, local practices associated with festivals such as *Umang Lai Haraoba* involve crafting smaller clay and wooden figures. Here, bamboo and cane weaving are sometimes integrated into ritual structures, showing the adaptability of local craft traditions.

In Nagaland and Meghalaya, while large clay murtis are uncommon, wood carving and bamboo craft play an important role in creating ritual figures and decorative structures, reflecting the integration of indigenous materials with spiritual practices.

In Arunachal Pradesh, especially in Tawang and Bomdila, Buddhist sculpting is prominent. Artisans create clay and metal murtis of Buddha, Tara, and Padmasambhava using the traditional clay-modeling and lost-wax processes. The murtis are painted with natural pigments and consecrated in monasteries.

Meghalaya's Khasi and Jaintia communities produce wooden effigies and memorial posts called "khnong", carved from single logs of local wood. These figures, often representing ancestors or nature spirits, are integral to community and memorial ceremonies.

In Mizoram, artisans carve wooden and bamboo figurines depicting warriors, animals, or spirits. These carvings, originally used as tribal memorials, now continue as expressions of folk heritage.

Nagaland is known for its Morung (community house) carvings made from teak and softwood. The sculptures portray ancestral figures, fertility symbols, and animal motifs, reflecting tribal mythology and social identity.

In Tripura, the Tripuri, Reang, and Chakma tribes create wooden and clay murtis used in village rituals and dance ceremonies. The murtis of forest spirits and deities are hand-carved and adorned with natural fibers.

Sikkim showcases a strong Buddhist murti making tradition, particularly in Rumtek and Gangtok. Monastic artisans make clay and bronze murtis of Buddha, Vajrapani, and Mahakala through clay modeling and lost-wax casting. Ritual butter sculptures (*tormas*) are also common during religious ceremonies.



Depiction of Lord Ganesha on bamboo sheets using traditional materials and techniques



Process of making faces of Goddess Durga using straw in Assam



Majuli masks of Assam



Visalam, Chettinad Tamil Nadu
Constructed in art deco style

INTACH Directory of Traditional Building Crafts – Art Deco – in collaboration with Architectural Heritage Division and INTACH Chapters

The Division is pleased to announce the initiation of the documentation of the craftsmanship employed during the Art Deco Movement in India, on the occasion of its centenary year. The Division has invited Mumbai, Surat, Jaipur, Shimla, Gwalior, Hyderabad and 12 other INTACH Chapters across the country to collaboratively document the ornamentation, porthole windows, furniture, motifs, relief patterns, iron grills, terrazzo floor, and other decorative elements reflecting the craftsmanship of the Art Deco structures in their region and contribute in the completion of the Directory.

Meeting on the Adaptive Reuse of Peshwa Haveli at INTACH, Delhi

Chaired by Shri. Ravindra Singh (IAS, Retd.) – Member Secretary, INTACH, a meeting to discuss the strategy for the adaptive reuse of the Peshwa Haveli, Varanasi was held on 20 August, 2025 at the INTACH Headquarters. The meeting was attended by – Shri. S. Prakash (Director Admin, INTACH); Shri. Aman Nath (Founder Member, INTACH); Shri. Atul Khanna (Governing Council Member, INTACH); Ms. Jyoti Mayal (Chairperson, THSC); Shri. Nilabh Sinha (Principal Director-A and MH Division); Ms. Vijaya Amujure (Principal Director-AH Division); Ms. Bindu Vandana Manchanda (Head, HCCD) and Ms. Radhika Malhotra (Project Associate, HCCD).



Shri. Ashok Singh Thakur, Chairman, and Shri. Ravindra Singh (IAS, Retd.) Member Secretary, with the HCCD Advisory Committee and the HCCD Team

HCCD Advisory Committee Meeting

was held on 24 September, 2025 at the INTACH premises. The meeting was attended by Ms. Ritu Sethi, Ms. Jyotsana Singh, Ms. Purnima Rai and Ms. Rta Chisti, along with Ms. Bindu Vandana Manchanda (Head-HCCD), Mr. Praveen Tiwari (Programme Coordinator-HCCD), Ms. Anushka Rawat (Programme Associate-HCCD) and Ms. Radhika Malhotra (Project Associate-HCCD). A presentation by Ms. Radhika Malhotra (Project Associate-HCCD) highlighted the range of craft revival initiatives, Directory of Traditional Building Crafts of India, upcoming community centric museums, Idol Making Traditions of India and other projects/ programmes undertaken by the Division, including the impact on the artisanal communities. Under the able guidance, experience and suggestions of the Committee Members, the HCCD team discussed the various upcoming projects and the way forward for the division. Shri. Ashok Singh Thakur, Chairman – INTACH and Shri. Ravindra Singh (IAS, Retd.) – Member Secretary, INTACH joined for the wrap up discussion.



Radhika Malhotra (Project Associate-HCCD) presenting the important initiatives and craft revival projects of the division

Head-HCCD invited as honorary jury member for Digital Artisans of India Award 2025, Pondicherry

Head-HCCD, Ms. Bindu Vandana Manchanda attended the Digital Artisans of India Awards 2025 as a Grand Jury member held at the Museum of Digital Society next to Auroville, near Pondicherry from 19 to 21 September 2025.

Capacity Building Workshop at INTACH Headquarters

The HCCD team oriented the INTACH Members about the initiatives and projects of the division at the Capacity Building Workshop held at INTACH Headquarters on 8 October, 2025.

Utsav at INTACH 2026

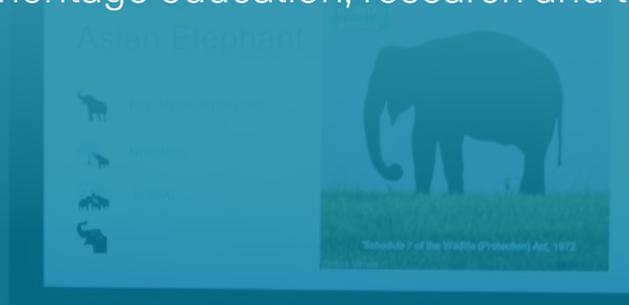
The HCCD has started working for the annual Utsav at INTACH scheduled from 28 to 31 January 2026.



HCCD Team at the capacity building workshop

Education, Training & Outreach

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



✓ HERITAGE EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION SERVICE

Teacher Workshops for Heritage Awareness and Heritage Clubs

DPS SOCIETY HRDC, GREATER NOIDA

11 - 12 AUGUST, 94 TEACHERS, 94 DPS SCHOOLS

A specialised workshop for DPS schools across India was organized by HECS, INTACH, held at the HRDC Building, DPS Knowledge Park-V, Greater Noida. The objective of the workshop was to equip educators with tools and strategies for integrating heritage education into school curricula, fostering cultural awareness and appreciation among students. The resource teams were – Ms. Purnima Datt (Principal Director, HECS), Ms. Christina Shangne, Ms. Vaishnavi, Ms. Nanki Kaur, and Mr. Deepanshu. The workshop employed a practical and interactive format, including a PowerPoint presentation, film screening, group discussions, interactive games and activities. Resource materials were also distributed. The workshop successfully engaged educators in heritage education, offering practical tools and creative strategies to bring India's rich cultural legacy into classrooms. Participants left with renewed inspiration and actionable ideas to foster heritage awareness among students.



DPS, Greater Noida

DIMAPUR

28 - 29 AUGUST, 15 TEACHERS, 9 SCHOOLS

Heritage Education and Communication Service (HECS) of INTACH, in collaboration with the INTACH Nagaland Chapter, successfully conducted a two-day workshop on heritage awareness and heritage club for teachers held at the Don Bosco Institute for Development & Leadership, Dimapur. Key attendees included Ms. Sentila T. Yanger (Convenor, INTACH Nagaland Chapter), Mr. Mefutiba AO (Co-Convenor), the Chapter members, and Life Members of INTACH. Representing HECS were Ms. Purnima Datt, Principal Director, HECS and the team. The workshop opened with a welcome address by Ms. Sentila Yanger, who emphasized the region's rich intangible heritage and India's role in UNESCO nominations. Ms. Purnima Datt's session – *What is Heritage?* – explored India's cultural diversity and the importance of preservation. Ms. Yanger added depth with stories of traditional tattooing and natural dye practices, while Ms. Datt later introduced strategies for integrating heritage education into classrooms. Day two featured a heritage walk at the historic Kachari Ruins, followed by an interactive session led by Ms. Datt and Ms. Shangne on HECS resources, the Young INTACH website, and social media. Teachers showcased Nagaland's heritage through creative group presentations.

Kachari Ruins

The Kachari Ruins in Dimapur, Nagaland are remnants of the 13th century Dimasa Kachari Kingdom, which feature a striking array of mushroom-domed pillars. Their origin and purpose remain a mystery. Some pillars stand tall while others lie in ruins, reflecting the grandeur of a bygone era.



Kachari Ruins, Dimapur

MANDLA

28 - 29 AUGUST, 46 TEACHERS, 38 SCHOOLS

INTACH's Heritage Education and Communication Service (HECS), in collaboration with the Mandla Chapter, hosted a vibrant two-day teachers' training workshop at DIET, Mandla. The teachers participated in sessions designed to deepen understanding of heritage and its classroom integration. The workshop was honoured by the presence of the Chief Guest Mr. Deepak Khandekar, Convenor, INTACH Madhya Pradesh, along with Mr. Sanjay Mehrotra, Convenor, INTACH Jabalpur Chapter. Gp. Capt. (Retd.) Arvind Shukla, Director Chapters, opened the session with insights into Mandla's rich legacy, from dinosaur fossils to the Kalachuri and Gond dynasties. Mr. Abhishek Das and Mr. Deepanshu of HECS explored heritage dimensions – Natural, Living, Built, and Material, while Chief Guest Mr. Deepak Khandekar emphasized the importance of Heritage Clubs in schools. Day two featured a heritage walk guided by Mr. Shukla to Ramnagar's Moti Mahal and nearby sites, enriched by local storytelling. Mr. Das and Mr. Deepanshu also introduced the HECS publications and resources to the teachers. Teachers then presented creative group activity on Garam Pani Kund, Narmada Aarti, Gondi Art, and the Narmada Ghats.

Moti Mahal

The 350-year-old Moti Mahal, Madhya Pradesh built by Gond King Hriday Shah, stands as a majestic bridge to the past. Once the power center of Northern Gondwana for 85 years before the capital shifted to Mandla, the three-storeyed palace reflects Mughal architectural influence. An inscription in its courtyard lists the lineage of Gond kings.

Mandla





Bhopal

BHOPAL

3- 4 SEPTEMBER, 48 TEACHERS, 30 SCHOOLS

HECS, INTACH, in collaboration with the INTACH Bhopal Chapter, hosted a dynamic two-day Teacher Training Workshop at the State Museum, Bhopal. Teachers from the Government schools across the city participated in the workshop. The welcome address was given by Ms. Srishti Jain and Mr. Madan Mohan Upadhyaya (Convenor of INTACH Bhopal Chapter), highlighted Madhya Pradesh's rich legacy from prehistoric fossils to Gond tribal culture. Mr. Ramesh Yadav, retired Senior Archaeologist, traced the region's evolution from cave dwellings to the Indus Valley, and explored the architectural and cultural contributions of Gupta rulers, Jainism, Buddhism, and Islamic heritage. Ms. Tutul Vishvas of Eklavya Foundation introduced creative teaching methods using storytelling and tribal art forms like Gond, Bhil, and Warli. Day one concluded with a guided heritage walk through the museum galleries. On day two, Ms. Purnima Datt led an interactive session on heritage types, supported by artefacts and teaching aids. She and Ms. Nanki Kaur showcased HECS resources and digital platforms. Teachers then presented group activity on themes like the Narmada River, Bhojtal, Gond Art, and Gedi Dance.

Mahanandiswara Temple

Located 14 km from Nandyal, the Mahanandiswara Temple in Mahanandi Mandal is a revered pilgrimage site dating back to the 7th century A.D. Its most striking feature is the crystal-clear water from perennial springs that flow year-round.



Nandyal

NANDYAL

13- 14 OCTOBER, 43 TEACHERS, 33 SCHOOLS

HECS, INTACH, in collaboration with the INTACH Nandyal Chapter, conducted a two-day teacher training workshop at Guru Raja English Medium School, Nandyal. Mr. Sivakumar Reddy welcomed attendees, followed by the first session on Nandyal's rich heritage, from Ramayana-era references to Ashokan inscriptions and Vijayanagar architecture presented by Dr. G.S. Ramaiah (life member, INTACH). Mr. K.B. Sethuraman, additional Co-Convenor Nandyal Chapter spoke about the temples of Nandyal. HECS team introduced the four types of heritage and demonstrated classroom strategies through role-play and object study. Day two featured group presentations on themes like Nallamala Forest, Mahanandi Temple, Bamboo Crafts, and the Ugadi Festival. HECS team then shared HECS publications and resources to the teachers. The participants were encouraged to integrate heritage education in their lessons and establish heritage clubs in schools. A heritage walk to Mahanandi Temple capped the event.



Sirohi

SIROHI

30 OCTOBER, 26 TEACHERS, 8 SCHOOLS

HECS, INTACH, in collaboration with the INTACH Sirohi Chapter, held a heritage awareness and training workshop at S.P. College. Mr. Ashutosh Patni welcomed participants and introduced INTACH's founding vision. Sessions led by Prof. Badri Vishal and Ms. Madan Lal Mali explored Rajasthan's historical and cultural legacy, including Sirohi's temples and tribal traditions. HECS team members Mr. Abhishek Das and Mr. Deepanshu presented the four types of heritage and discussed classroom integration through teaching aids, role-play, and object studies. Participants engaged in group activities to identify and preserve Sirohi's heritage.



GCHV

College Heritage Volunteer Training Workshops

GUWAHATI

11- 12 SEPTEMBER, 95 STUDENTS, 12 FACULTY MEMBERS, 3 COLLEGES

INTACH HECS, in collaboration with INTACH Assam Chapter organized a two-day College Heritage Volunteer Training Workshop, hosted by The Assam Royal Global University. Students and faculty members from three colleges participated. The event was inaugurated by Dr. Susmita Hazarika, with key addresses by Prof. Alak Kumar Buragohain and Prof. Surajit C. Mukhopadhyay. Ms. Purnima Datt, Principapl Director, HECS, INTACH, highlighted INTACH's conservation efforts nationwide, while Dr. Sheila Bora (Advisor,

Guwahati's Heritage

Assam's layered history, including Ahom water systems, early inscriptions, colonial architecture, and archaeological remains. Participants explored Jorpukhuri and Dighalipukhuri ponds, Ugratara Devalaya, an Ahom inscription, North Brooke Gate, Vishnu Janardan Temple, Cotton University archaeological site, and the historic neighbourhoods of Pan Bazaar and Uzan Bazaar.



Ahmedabad

RGU) spoke on Assam's rich intangible heritage from oral traditions and weaving to sacred groves and satras. Ms. Vaishnavi led a session on youth engagement through heritage volunteerism. Day two featured site visits to Jorpukhuri, Ugratara Devalaya, Cotton University's archaeological site, and more. Ms. Datt conducted a session on Hands for Heritage and students shared lullabies in native languages. Group presentations were presented on themes like muga silk, Majuli houses, and Brahmaputra traditions.

AHMEDABAD

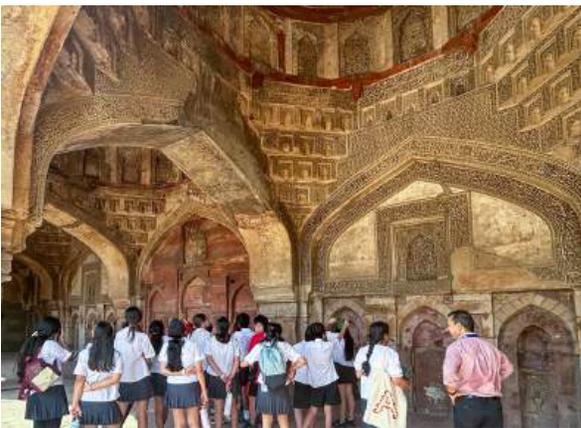
8 OCTOBER, 31 STUDENTS, 5 FACULTY MEMBERS

INTACH's Heritage Education and Communication Service (HECS), in collaboration with the Centre for Heritage Management and INTACH Ahmedabad Chapter, conducted a College Heritage Volunteer Training Workshop at Ahmedabad University. Students alongside university faculty Mr. Mohit Gupta, Director, Career Development Centre (CDC), Ahmedabad University; Prof. Molly Kaushal, Professor and Director, Centre for Heritage Management; and other university faculty members participated. Ms. Purnima Datt led an insightful session on the fundamentals of heritage. She along with Ms. Christina Shangne also conducted an engaging session on Heritage Volunteering and Action Plans, guiding students on how they can take forward heritage related initiatives within their campuses and communities. Films showcasing INTACH's journey and student projects were screened. Renowned embroiderer Mr. Asif Shaikh highlighted Ahmedabad's textile legacy and the need to preserve authentic craft traditions. Ms. Utpala Desai emphasized youth involvement in conservation efforts. It was a day of learning and inspiration.

SIROHI

30 OCTOBER, 36 STUDENTS, 3 COLLEGES

HECS, INTACH, in collaboration with the INTACH Sirohi Chapter, held a heritage awareness and training workshop at S.P. College. The event brought together students and members of Bharat Scouts and Guides. The session on volunteerism encouraged college students to take active roles in heritage protection. Participants engaged in group activities to identify and preserve Sirohi's heritage.



Heritage Walk to Lodhi Garden

Specialised Activity

Heritage Walk & Conservation Lab Visit

15 SEPTEMBER 2025

Students and teachers from The British School, New Delhi, participated in a heritage walk at Lodhi Gardens, led by HECS INTACH team members. The walk highlighted Indo-Islamic architecture and historical features. Following the walk, students visited INTACH's headquarters, where Ms. Purnima Datt introduced them to the organisation's heritage initiatives. At the Conservation Lab, Ms. Merrin and her team showcased ongoing restoration work and presented INTACH's conservation projects, offering students a hands-on glimpse into heritage preservation.

Heritage Walk to Mehrauli Archaeological Park

Heritage Walk to Mehrauli Archaeological Park

13 AUGUST 2025

The Heritage Education and Communication Service (HECS) organized a heritage walk for Delhi Public School International, Saket, at Mehrauli Archaeological Park. Led by HECS team Ms. Vaishnavi Singh and Mr. Deepanshu, 18 students explored key monuments in the area. The walk highlighted Delhi's rich architectural legacy, from the Delhi Sultanate and Mughal Empire to British adaptations by Thomas Metcalfe. Students engaged with historical narratives, architectural features, and conservation efforts, culminating in a visit to the Mehrauli Interpretation Centre and a group photo with the iconic Qutub Minar.



**Endangered Living Heritage – Arts and Craft Awareness Workshops (in collaboration with respective Chapters)**

KASHMIR 24 July 2025 Govt. Boys Higher Secondary School, Soura, Kashmir	36 STUDENTS FROM 9 SCHOOLS The workshop was conducted by Mr. Bashir Ahmad, a skilled willow wicker craftsman who introduced students to the tools, weaving techniques, and processes involved in the willow-wicker craft.
DELHI 20 August, 2025 Kathika Cultural Centre, Old Delhi	50 STUDENTS FROM 2 SCHOOLS A one day workshop was conducted by Sh. Irshad Alam Khubi and Sh. Sudhir on Qissagoi, Nashtaliq Calligraphy and Indian Classical Music for the Urdu Medium schools of old Delhi.
AYODHYA 18 and 20 August 2025 JB Academy, Ayodhya	77 STUDENTS FROM 5 SCHOOLS The workshop was conducted by Mrs. Kusum Pandey who guided the students in the tradition of Chatoliya craft and Kathari-making.
SANTINIKETAN 20 and 22 August 2025 Binuria Sumitra Balika Vidyalya, Birbhum	35 STUDENTS FROM 2 SCHOOLS Smt. Ipsa Bandopadhyay led the 2-day workshop on the importance of Macrame craft. Macrame, the art of knotting cord to create decorative items, originated with 13th-century Arabic weavers who used knots to finish textiles.
MANGALURU 23 August 2025 Government High School, Manchi-Kolnadu, Bantwal Taluk	50 STUDENTS FROM 3 SCHOOLS A one-day workshop on traditional basket weaving was conducted by Mr. Shankar Koraga Gutthakadu and Ms. Supriya, who provided live demonstrations and guided students in practical training.
AMBALA 23 August 2025 Sikh Senior Secondary School, Ambala Cantt.	60 STUDENTS FROM 4 SCHOOLS The craft workshop was conducted by Ms. Lalita Chopra and Ms. Danisha who encouraged children to make colourful bouquets, festive wall hangings, and learn about Rajasthani music.
BHAGALPUR 29 August 2025 Divine Happy School, Bhagalpur	90 STUDENTS FROM 5 SCHOOLS A one-day workshop was organised on endangered paintings of the region. Students were guided to appreciate the dying art and protect the culture.
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLAND 30 August 2025 Government Sec. School, Junglighat, Port Blair	50 STUDENTS A Clay moulding workshop was conducted by the artists to teach the students about the importance of clay moulding and the objects that can be made.
MURSHIDABAD 8 and 9 September Seva Miloni High School, Khagra, Berhampore	36 STUDENTS The two day workshop was conducted by renowned jute artist Shri Sandip Guin who introduced the students to the techniques of creating art and craft objects using jute ropes of various sizes.
DHARAMSHALA 18 September 2025 Achievers' Hub Senior Secondary School, Dari Dharamshala	50 STUDENTS FROM A FEW SCHOOLS The craft workshop was organised on the endangered Kangra Miniature Painting. Renowned master craftsmen Sh. Mukesh Kumar and Sh. Manu Sharma provided hands-on training to the students.
JAMNAGAR 20 September 2025 Lakhota Museum, Jamnagar	80 STUDENTS FROM 6 SCHOOLS Curator Dr. Chaudhry organized a workshop on Khadi. Students wrote messages on Khadi bags about conservation, environment, and India's tangible and intangible heritage.
NAGALAND 15 October 2025 NEZCC, Dimapur	82 STUDENTS FROM 8 SCHOOLS The workshop was conducted by craft practitioners of Tuli, Amenla and Atila who introduced the students on the traditional bamboo mat making craft.
BALASORE 18 and 19 October 2025 Balasore Arts & Crafts College, Balasore	33 STUDENTS FROM 7 SCHOOLS The two-day workshop was conducted by Sh. Daitary Behera, and Sh. Rajeeb Kumar Barik on terracotta craft. Students were taught to make eco-friendly idols and objects.
THRISSUR 30 October 2025 Kulapathi Munshi Bhavan's Vidyamandir, Pottore	35 STUDENTS The workshop on Kuruthola Craft was led by artist Navneeth Chero who introduced students to the traditional art of crafting with coconut leaves. The students learned to create items such as fish, snakes, olapeepi (leaf whistle), and other decorative elements, showcasing their creativity and skill.
GWALIOR 1 November 2025 Simpkin Public School, Gwalior	89 STUDENTS FROM 7 SCHOOLS A one day craft workshop was organized by Hariji Prajapati for the middle school students on the dying art of Chitera painting.



Willow wicker craft–Kashmir



Bouquet making–Ambala



Macrame craft–Santiniketan



Chatoliya Art–Ayodhya



Basket weaving workshop–Mangaluru



Khadi workshop–Jamnagar

Publications and Website

Young INTACH Newsletters

India's Multi-Hued Headgears (JULY–SEPTEMBER 2025) IN ENGLISH AND HINDI

This newsletter explores the diverse and rich variety of India's multi-hued headgears. From history connected to various headgears, to their use and significance, the newsletter gives an insight into the cultures and traditions that depict such headgears. With the use of text, illustrations, activities, and interactive games, the newsletter aims to bring these unique aspects of our attire to the forefront, and help with their conservation.

Nature in India's Culture (OCTOBER–DECEMBER 2025) IN ENGLISH AND HINDI

This newsletter explores the rich diversity of India's nature-related festivals. Rooted in history, these celebrations reflect the deep connection between people and the natural world, as documented in ancient texts. Through engaging text, vivid illustrations, creative activities, and interactive games, the newsletter highlights the customs and traditions that showcase how our festivals are intertwined with nature.



Reprint of Adopt Series – Adopt a Tree, Adopt a Monument, Adopt a Craft & Adopt a Performing Art

These handbooks for teachers, students and heritage enthusiasts help them learn how to conserve India's built and natural heritage, its crafts and performing arts.

Ongoing

- Story cum Colouring Book on Mizoram
- Assamese Translation of Moloya Braids a River Journey
- Reprint of Heritage Club Passports
- Young INTACH Regional Language Translation 2024-25 in 10 languages
- HECS Desk Calendar 2026

Young INTACH Website: The young INTACH webpage (www.youngintach.org) is updated with more educational resource material. These included worksheets on Textiles, Footwear, Metal Crafts, Headgears, Jewellery, Monthly E-Newsletter and weekly heritage news alerts which are published regularly. All newsletters English and Hindi are in an interesting readable format on the website.

E-Newsletter

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

Social Media

Challenges taken up in the month of August – November 2025

Month	Challenge
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elephant Day Comic Strip Challenge • Eco-Friendly Ganesha Challenge • Heritage Beacon Award
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Peace Day • Save Our Rivers Challenge
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Food Day Challenge – Mishti Magic
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education and Elders – Challenge



National Programmes INTACH National Heritage Quiz 2025 – City Rounds

CHAPTER	VENUE AND ATTENDANCE	CONTENT HIGHLIGHTS AND SUPPORT
Ambala 23 July	BD Sr. Sec. School, Ambala Cantt. 96 students/24 schools	INTACH members and dignitaries graced the occasion. Mrs. Madhu Singh was the Quiz Master. Army Public School, Ambala Cantt. stood first.
Yamunanagar 29 July	Sant Nischal Singh Public School 92 students/8 schools	Arnav and Aarav Kalia of Swami Vivekanand Public School, Sector 17, Jagadhri won the quiz.
Hisar 2 Aug	Palladium School 112 students/12 schools	Khushi and Ojas from O.P Jindal school stood first. Aarav and Devansh from O.P. Jindal came second.
Panipat 28 Aug	MASD School 70 students/6 schools	Dyal Singh Public school won the quiz.
Gurgaon 29 Aug	Vedatya Institute, Gurugram 52 students/6 schools	Dr Parul Munjal was the Quiz Master. Ryan International School Sector 31 emerged as the winner.
Faridabad 8 Aug	KL Mehta Dayanand Sr Sec School, Sec 16 136 students/15 schools	The quiz was conducted in two phases. The written round was held on an earlier date followed by the oral round on 8 August. The team from KL Mehta Dayanand Sr. Sec. School, Sec 16, Faridabad won the final.
Amritsar 18 Aug	Delhi Public School 130 students/14 schools	Mr. Muhammad Bilal Farooqi, an expert heritage was the quiz master. The event was graced by the Principal of Delhi Public School, and Historian Mr. Surinder Kochhar. Spring Dale's Saurish Nagpal (Grade IX) and Sehajnoor Kaur (Grade VIII) secured the first position.
Sangrur 8 Oct	Gen Gurnam Singh Public School 140 students/11 schools	After 7 oral rounds the first and second position was attained by the teams of Gen Gurnam Singh Public School.
Bathinda 9 Oct	MSD School 92 students/8 schools	Silver Oaks Public School, Bathinda won first position. The competition was organized by INTACH Members, the Principals and the teachers of the schools participated in the competition.
Faridkot 15 Oct	100 students/10 schools	DCM International School, Kotkapura won first Position.
MalerKotla 27 Oct	Al Falah Public Sr. Sec. School 80 students	The quiz was won by Tasmiya and Habba Noori of Al Falah Public School.
Tarn Taran 30 Oct	Majha Public School 96 students/10 schools	Guru Nanak Dev Academy team stood first and will participate in the State level competition.
Hoshiarpur 4 Nov	Guru Gobind Singh Public School 76 students/7 schools	Guru Gobind Singh Public School emerged champion, securing the first position. The event inspired students to stay connected with their roots and take pride in the heritage of Hoshiarpur.
Kapurthala	MGN School 82 students/8 schools	The competition was held at MGN School, Kapurthala.
Patiala	Government Multipurpose Senior Secondary School 62 students/7 schools	Quiz Masters Parmveer Singh and Haspreet Kaur conducted the event successfully in the presence of Sarbjit Singh Virk Advocate Convener of Patiala Chapter. The team of The British Co-Ed High School stood first. Adv. Jatinder Singh Sarao, Heritage activist, thanked the students, teachers, guests.
Ferozpur	DCM International School 80 students	INTACH Ferozpur Convener Dr Anirudh Gupta, conducted the National Heritage Quiz-2025 at DCM International School in Ferozpur city. The winners will go ahead for the State Level Championship
Varanasi 19 Aug	The Aryan International School	Mr. Arihan and Mr. Aditya of Sunbeam School, Bhagwanpur won the quiz.
Ayodhya 24 Aug	J B Academy 150 students/15 schools	The event was organized under the guidance of Ms. Anuja Srivastava. Dr. Indroneel Banerjee, Co-Convener of the Ayodhya Chapter was the quiz master for the day. Army Public School emerged as the winners of the quiz.
Gorakhpur 24 Aug	Mahatma Gandhi Inter College 92 students/9 schools	St Andrews post graduate College was invited to give an address to students on heritage. The team of H.P. Children Academy was declared the winner.
Mahoba 29 Aug	100 students	Ayushman Sharma and Arjit Paliwal of Gyansthali Public School as winners of the quiz. They will participate for the state round to be held in Lucknow.
Lucknow 30 Aug	La Martiniere College, Lucknow 82 students/21 schools	This year's event in Lucknow commenced with a written preliminary round. After a fiercely contested quiz, the winners were declared and felicitated by the distinguished Chief Guest, Mr. Mukesh Meshram, Principal Secretary, Tourism and Culture, Government of Uttar Pradesh. The quiz masters were Ms Surabhi Modi Sahai and Mr Aditya Wakhlu.
Kanpur 3 Sept	United Public School	Sparsh Bharadwaj and Vinayak Shukla of Puranchandra Vidya Niketan won the quiz.
Allahabad 12 Sept	Delhi Public School, Naini 106 students	The First Prize went to Bhavya Pandey and Ansh Yadav from Patanjali Rishikul School. Quiz Master Dr. Divya Bartria, and the Guests of Honor Colonel Parag Bhargava and Dr. Ritu Jaiswal set the tone. Dr. Ritu Jaiswal spoke about the importance of community participation in heritage conservation. A short presentation on INTACH's mission and achievements was also shared by Mr Vaibhav Maini.
Kotdwar 23 Aug	Hayde Heritage Academy 102 students/11 schools	Chief Guest Shri. Sohan Saini (SDM), Kotdwar offered valuable suggestions, including involving education officers in future programmes to ensure wider participation of government schools.



CHAPTER	VENUE AND ATTENDANCE	CONTENT HIGHLIGHTS AND SUPPORT
Mussoorie 20 Sept	Mahatma Yogeshwar Saraswati Sishu Vidya Mandir 64 students	Oak Grove School, Mussoorie bagged the first prize. Wynberg Allen School and St Clare's Convent School got second and third prize respectively. The chief guest was Mrs. Alpna Pant Sharma retired IFS officer.
Belagavi 25 Aug	Bharatesh Education Trust Campus 70 students/6 schools	Quizmaster Swatee Jog grilled the students in a fun and exhilarating final round. Prasanna Allayanavarmath and Yash Dharmoji from Bharatesh English Medium School emerged winners with the highest marks in the 3 rounds of the finals.
Bijapur 30 Aug	BLDEA DR PG Halakatti Research Centre 86 students/10 schools	Shri Arun Inamdar, VC of BM Patil University inaugurated the function. Prithvi Karjinagi and Anupriya R Kulkarni from B M Patil School bagged the first prize. Dr. V D Aiholli conducted the quiz.
Gulbarga 30 Aug	Vivekanand Vidya Niketan School 50 students/7 schools	Sri. Siddappa Bhagawati, Principal V.V.N. School inaugurated the event. The Quiz was conducted by Quiz master. Dr. S. Reddy and Prof. C.S. Anandi. The first prize was won by Krishna team (V.V.N. School).
Santiniketan 16 July	Dwarka High School 34 students/10 schools	The quiz was conducted by Quiz Masters Srimati Lopamudra Sen and Shree Tarit Roychoudhury. Jaydeep Mondal and Jyotirmoy Ghosh of Labpur Jadablab High School won.
Murshidabad 19 Aug	Students Health Home Berhampore 18 schools	The quiz was done in two stages: written and oral. Sargachhi RKM school stood first with JN Academy and Gokarna PM High School being declared jointly second.
Kolkata 30 Oct	Apeejay School, Park Street 38 students/7 schools	The quiz was conducted by quizmaster Smita Mehta, member of INTACH, Calcutta Chapter Garden High School won the City Level of the quiz and qualified to represent INTACH Calcutta Chapter at the State Level.
Kangra 15 Oct	Montessori Cambridge School 90 students/9 schools	Bhavna and Vanika from Montessori Cambridge won the quiz. Convenor, Mr. L N Aggarwal briefed the students.
Mandi 11 Oct	Govt. Bijai Sr. Sec. School 110 students/12 schools	The team of Inayat and Aayush of Swami Vivekanand Sr. Sec. School won the quiz. Dy. Mayor Smt. Madhuri Kapoor was invited as the Chief Guest of the event.
Patna 23 Aug	Buddha Smriti Park Museum, Patna 120 students/30 schools	The programme was inaugurated by the Convenor Mr. Bhairab Lal Das. Khanak Verma and Reyaans of Delhi Public School, Patna secured first position at the city level.
Bhagalpur 30 Aug	St. Paul's School, Nathnagar, Bhagalpur 54 students	The quiz was conducted in two stages with the first four teams selected from the written round. The Quiz Master Mr. Kaushal Kishor Singh explained the methodology of the quiz. The Chapter Convenor, Co-Convenor and Addl. Co-Convenor inaugurated the event and briefed the students.
Purnea 30 Aug	Vidya Vihar Residential School, Parora 186 students/18 schools	Mr. Samiran Mondal was invited as the quiz master. Sabal Kumar and Darshil of Vidya Vihar Residential School, Parora stood first.
Mahasamund 25 July	Navikaran Academy 110 students/11 schools	After the written and oral rounds of the quiz, Aman Yadav and Naman Sahu of Vrindavan Vidyalaya emerged as the winning team.
Raipur 1 Aug	Lakshminarayan Girls Hr. Sec. School, Kalibadi Road 88 students/11 schools	Virendra Nidhad and Khilesh Manikpuri of Prof. J. N. Pandey Govt. M. A. U. H. M. S. School emerged as the winning team, all participating students were given certificates.
Bilaspur 20 Aug	Deokinandan Girls Hr. Sec. School 129 students/16 schools	INTACH Bilaspur Chapter organised the city round of the quiz with the help of HECS division.
Gaurella Pendra Marwahi 23 Aug	S. S. College of Education 130 students/11 schools	65 teams of students began the quiz with a written round. After the oral round, Kaustubh Shukla and Kushnuma of Swami Atamanand English Medium School secured first position.
Saraipali 3 Sept	SAGES Saraipali & St. Vincent Pallotti School 256 students/38 schools	The written round was conducted at SAJES Saraipali and St. Vincent Pallotti Higher Secondary School, Kutela, while the oral round was held at St. Vincent Pallotti School. Adarsh Sahu and Ku. Somya Panda of St. Vincent Pallotti H. S. S. Kutela became the winners of the city round.
Korea 29 Sept	Delhi World Public School 8 schools	Somnath and Shahista Parveen, of Universal Public Higher Secondary School, Manendragarh emerged as the winner.
Balangir 27 July	65 students/9 schools	Sanvi Nayak and Sarbesh Meher of IDM Public School won first prize
Balasure 17 Aug	Siddhi Vinayak Public School 90 students/9 schools	Participants from various schools took part in written and oral rounds conducted by Quiz Master Mr. V. Uday Kumar. Dyutidipta Nayak & Tathastu Tathagat Das of D. A. V. Public School were the winners.
Mayurbhanj 24 & 31 Aug	M.P.K. Govt. Girls High School, Baripada 137 participants/12 schools	The winning team was Bhagyashree Das and Dibyanshu Chouhand of Odisha Adarsh Vidyalaya Ranibhol
Bhilwara 21 Aug	Govt. Senior Sec School, Bhilwara 76 students/8 schools	After written, oral and buzzer rounds, Aditi Gaggar and Jinisha Jain of Maheshwari Public School became the winners.
Alwar 28 Aug	Shri Agarwal Mahasabha Bhawan 73 students/7 schools	The winning team was Tanmay Kumar Meena and Pradeep Kumar Yadav of Bal Bharti Scheme-8.
Barmer 29 Aug	Mahatma Gandhi Government School, Housing Board, Balotra 98 students/10 schools	The winners were Vanshika and Jaishree of MGGS School.
Sirohi 6 Sept	Ajit Vidya Mandir 84 students/10 schools	The quiz was conducted in two phases, as prescribed- written and oral rounds. The first position was secured by Kirti Chouhan and Sushil Ghanchi of Ajit Vidya Mandir.





CHAPTER	VENUE AND ATTENDANCE	CONTENT HIGHLIGHTS AND SUPPORT
Jodhpur 12 Sept	Konark Sr. Sec. School, Pratap Nagar 97 students/7 school	A written and oral round was conducted. Mrs. Vimlesh Rathore was the quiz master.
Jaisalmer 18 Sept	R. K. S. Public Sr. Sec. School and Vinayak Pre School 121 students/2 schools	Mr. Roorpram Dhandev, Ex-MLA, Mr. Amardeen Fakeer, Head of Panchayat Samiti, and Mr. Harivallabh, Chairman Nagar Nigam attended the event. Dharamveer Mahipal and Lokendra Fakeer of R.K. S. Sr. Public School were the winners.
Karauli 20 Sept	Bhanwar Villas Marriage Garden 130 students/13 schools	Ishant Chaturvedi and Purvi Chaturvedi of Lokhitkari Sr. Sec. School were the winners.
Ajmer 28 Sept	Turning Point School 72 students/11 schools	Vishak Tilokani and Naman Raj of All Saints School, were declared winners. The chief guest was Mr. Neeraj Tripathi, Superintendent, Archives and Museum Department.
Beawar	Govt. Patel Senior Secondary School 148 students/16 schools	After the written and the oral round, Anvi Agrawal and Tamanna of Bangad Public School secured the first position.
Burhanpur 6 Aug	R. S. E. T. Institution /88 students	K. DipaliKhushwaha and K. Anita Gadariyan of Jaunabad distt. were the winners of the quiz.
Jabalpur 25 Aug	St. Xavier's School 500 students/10 schools	Ms. Roopali Sharma, PGT at Spring Day Higher Sec. School was the quiz master. Aryansh Soni and Riddhima Tiwari of Joy Sr. Sec. School secured the first position. The quiz was graced by the presence of Mr. Arvind Yadav, Joint Commissioner and Mr. Sanjeev Choudhary, Chief Editor NDTV.
Katni 30 Aug	92 students/8 schools	Divyanshu Raj and Mugdham Panjwani were the winners of the Katni city round of the INTACH National Heritage Quiz 2025.
Khandwa 30th Aug	New Way Coaching premises 64 students/7 schools	Khandwa Chapter organised the quiz for 32 teams of students. Out of 32 teams, 4 best were selected for the oral round. Geetanjali Solanki and Vani Sharma from St. Jones Convent Higher Secondary School seemed first position.
Gwalior 6 Sept	SindiyaKanya Vidyalaya 188 students/11 schools	4 teams were selected for the oral round. Sajal Chaturvedi and Ashnendra Gubrele of Gwalior Glory High School emerged as the winners of the quiz.
Morena 9 Sept	Amar Shahid P. Ramprasad Bismil Archaeological Museum 60 students/8 schools	Swati Rathore and Krishna Tomar of Sarojini Vidya Niketan were the winners of the quiz.
Datia 16 Sept	75 students/5 schools	The quiz was conducted by Quiz Master Mr. Shyam Sharma and coordinated by Mrs. Rani Thakur. Ms. Reena Rathore, and Ms. Yogita Devda. Mayank Nalvaya and Mohammad Zubair from Government Excellence School stood first in the quiz.
Mandla 23 Aug & 29 Sept	Gyandeep Sr. Sec. Eng Med School 10 schools/100 students	Teams from four schools participated and Nirmala Senior Secondary School won and qualified for the state level.
Dimapur, Nagaland 22 Aug	Dimapur LothaHoho Ki 62 students/6 schools	A short talk on the impact of plastic and natural heritage was delivered by Life Member Thangi Mannen. The teams began with the written round, after which 4 teams moved to the oral round. Akangjungshi A. Jamir and Daulen M. Phom of Hollotoli School became the winners.
Srinagar 9 & 10 Sept	Govt. Boys Hr. Sec. School, Soura 68 students/10 school	Four teams, each consisting of two students, qualified for the next stage.
Aizawl, Mizoram 25 Sept	Conference Hall, Directorate of School Education 36 students/18 school	The programme was chaired by Ms. Rosy Lalfakzuali Sailo, Deputy Director of Administration. Helen Lainunmawii and M. S. Dawngzela of Govt. Mizo High School secured the first position.
Delhi 9 Oct	India International Centre 212 students/61 schools	The event began with a welcome address by Ms. Purnima Datt, Principal Director, HECS. INTACH's Member-Secretary Mr. Ravindra Singh (Retd. IAS) also shared words of encouragement with the students. Quiz Master Kunal Savarkar from Xpressminds Edutainment welcomed the students and made the students familiar with the quiz. During the oral round, Chief Guest, Mr. K N Srivastava, Director, India International addressed the students. INTACH Chairman, Mr. Ashok Singh Thakur at the end of the oral round, also wished the students all the best. Delhi Public School, Greater Noida secured the first position.
Calicut 5 Aug	106 students/13 schools	53 Teams participated in the written round followed by 4 teams making it to the final round. Shreeya Thilak Sri Gujrati Vidhyalaya, Kozhikode M. and Veda Baiju from Vedavyasa Vidyalayam won the first prize and will be heading to the state round.
Thrissur 28 Aug	State Museum 6 schools/20+ students	INTACH Thrissur Chapter organized a Heritage Quiz in association with the Museum & Zoo department at the State Museum of Kerala. Salabha T.G (quiz master), Anil Sir (Superintend Museum & Zoo), Vinod Kumar M (INTACH Convenor), Dr P.S Easa (EC Member), Ar Athira (Co-ordinator), Punnya, Vinayak and Krishna (Volunteers) organised the competition. Nandakishore K S, Sreehari C Nair from Bhartiya Vidya Bhavans Irinjalakuda won the district level competition.
Kochi 29 Oct	Kerala Museum 66 Students/16 Schools	INTACH Cochin Chapter & Kerala Museum conducted the Cochin City Round at Kerala Museum. 33 teams participated in the Quiz program. Niranjan Sekhar A. and Keerthana Krishnamohan from Bhavans Vidya Mandir Elamakkara won the first prize and will be heading to the state round.



Khandwa



Jodhpur



Beawar

CHAPTER	VENUE AND ATTENDANCE	CONTENT HIGHLIGHTS AND SUPPORT
Kasaragod 12 Aug, 10 & 22 Sept	GHSS Kanhangad South, Hosdurg Kanhangad and Raja Higher Secondary School	The final round was held on 22 September at Raja Higher Secondary School, Nileshwaram, where 92 students participated. Amith K. of G.H.S.S, Hosdurg, were selected to represent the Kasaragod Chapter in the State Round.
Palakkad 1 Nov	ASI Hall, Palakkad Fort 19 schools/132 students	The quiz, conducted by Quizmaster Arun Narayan. Aathmika N.S. and Veda M.C. (Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Tattamangalam) won first place. The event, was supported by a Malayala Manorama's Nallapaadam initiative.
Thanjavur 30 July	Little Scholars Matric Hr. Sec. School, Thanjavur 226 students/8 schools	Prof. Dr. B. Sheela from Tamil University, served as the special speaker during the programme. Quiz Master was Sri N. Selvaraj. The winners were P. Viswanthan and B. Prithiv from Blossom Public School, Thanjavur.
Chennai 23 Aug	Sri Sankara Vidyashramam School 66 teams from 20 schools	Five teams qualified for the finals. Anirudh Prem and Prabhav Nandan R. from PSBB Millennium School, Gerugambakkam emerged as winners.
Kodaikanal 26 Aug	Zion School 98 students/9 schools	The top five teams in the written round qualified for the final oral round. Jeanna Vargheese and Hasini D from Bhavan's Gandhi Vidyashram, Kodaikanal secured the first prize.
Salem 28 Aug	Sri Vidya Mandir School Auditorium 102 students/11 schools	The four top-scoring teams advanced to the oral rounds. The team from Sri Vidhya Bharathi M.H.S.S, represented by R. Raja Murugan and Y. Vinith, performed commendably.
Coimbatore 1 Sept	Vivekalaya's Vichara World School 258 students/15 schools	Mr. Sheilendra Bhansal, from INTACH Coimbatore Chapter, served as the Quiz Master. Gaurav Agarwal and Ishan Jain from Yuva Bharathi School emerged as the winners.
Visakhapatnam 1 Aug	Alwardas Public School, MVP Colony, Visakhapatnam 208 students/23 schools	The top four teams qualified for the final oral round. Navy Children School, represented by Ishaan Gupta and Ishita Gupta, emerged as winners.
Srikakulam 30 Aug	Vikas School, Srikakulam 52 students/12 schools	Mrs. Jagannadha Naidu, Co-convenor, served as the Quiz Master and Sri. N. Sanyasi Rao facilitated the process and chaired the programme. The first prize was won by Yaswanth and B Rakshith from Oxford School.
Guntur 3 Sept	Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan School 56 students/14 schools	The quiz was conducted by Quizmaster Dr. A. Rajasekhar. The winners were Sk. Javed Abrar and Sk. Naveed from St. Laurels Public School, Guntur.
Machilipatnam 2 Nov	Little Flower English Medium High School, Rajupet, Machilipatnam	Fourteen teams from different high schools participated. Sree Balajee Vidyalayam was represented by the students G. Harsha Vardhini and K. Raaga Srujana and secured first place.
Anantapur 3 Nov	Government Degree College, Anantapur 6 schools	The competition consisted of two rounds — a written round with 20 questions, followed by an oral round for the top four teams. Y. Midhun Kumar and G. Bharath Rathore-Rotary English medium School secured the first rank.
Mahabubnagar 25 - 26, 28 - 30 Aug	Gandhi Hall, Government B.Ed College, Mahabubnagar 742 students/103 schools	The written rounds were conducted in three phases. Each Mandal's top team qualified for the District (City) Round, Mr. T. Sridhar served as Quiz Master for the oral round. The winning team Devendhar Goud and G. Vikas from MJPTBCWREIS, Jadcherla town will represent Mahabubnagar at the State Level Quiz.
Jamshedpur 9 Oct	Jusco School, Kadma 70 students/7 schools	Asmitha Thakur and Anindo Purkait from Kerala Public School, Kadma won first place and will represent Jamshedpur at the State-Level Quiz in Ranchi.
Nagpur 20 Aug	Smt. Manoramabai Mundle College of Architecture, Seminary Hills 175 students representing 18 schools	The Inter-City Heritage Quiz event was held under the guidance of Dr. Madhura Rathod (Governing Council Member, INTACH New Delhi). Quizmaster Mr. Anup Manchalwar conducted the session. Aaditya Rajurkar and Namman Tripathi of Bhavan's Trimurti Nagar won the school category.
Baramati 21 Aug 2025	Vidya Pratishthan's School of Architecture, Baramati 42 Students / 11 schools	The INTACH India Heritage Quiz 2025 was held for the first time in Baramati. Pranjali Pravin Ghorpade and Shivendra Ganesh Jadhav of VP English Medium CBSE School secured the first rank.
Nashik 22 Aug	Meena Bhujbal School of Excellence 170 students/14 schools	SKD International School, Deola, emerged winners for the second consecutive year, represented by Avishkar Pawar and Ameya Nikam.
Wai Panchgani 23 Aug 2025	Kalpataru Mangal Karyalaya, Wai 96 students/9 schools	Six teams qualified for the finals, from which Gargee Kamlakar Dere and Sohana Sahalam Molla were selected to represent Wai at the State-level competition.
Amravati 10 Sept 2025	Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Memorial Science and Innovation Centre 99 students / 12 schools	The INTACH Inter-School Heritage Quiz 2025 was organised by the INTACH Amravati Chapter in association with Shri Shivaji Science College. Mr. Anup Manchalwar served as Quizmaster. Smayan Laddha and Pranav Patil from Podar International School, Amravati, secured the first rank.
Solapur 22 Sept	SPM English Medium School 64 students/17schools	The event was convened by Dr. Narendra Katikar and Co-Convenor Ar. Shveta Kothavale, who also served as the Quizmaster. Ms. Anushka Amol Gaikwad and Master Sujay Mohan Hajare from Late V. M. Mehta High School emerged winners.
Jamnagar 19 Aug 2025	Heritage Hotel Aram Crystal Banquet Hall, Jamnagar 72 students/6 schools	Jamnagar Round, was held, at one of the city's oldest heritage landmarks. The top-scoring teams entered three rounds of oral and rapid-fire questions, with five tie-breakers determining the finalists. Asmitaba Parmar and Darshan Sonchhatra from SSSV Gujarati Medium School emerged as the winners and will represent Jamnagar at the State Level Quiz in Gujarat.
Rajkot 4 Aug 2025	Main Auditorium, Atmiya University 250 students/18 schools	The INTACH Rajkot Chapter hosted the District Level Heritage Quiz. The quiz was conducted by Quizmaster Hiren Acharya and anchored by INTACH member Niyati Shah. Dev Depani & Aarav Pambhar of Genius English Medium School secured the first rank.



Anantapur



Guntur



Rajkot



INTACH National Heritage Quiz 2025 – State Rounds

CHHATTISGARH – 12 OCTOBER 2025

The Chhattisgarh state-level quiz was held at Anand Samaj Library, Gandhi Sadan, Raipur. 15 participants and 8 teachers from 8 chapters took part. Chief guests Dr. Shiv Kumar Pandey, former Vice-Chancellor, and Shri Shashank Sharma, Minister of State for Culture, highlighted the importance of heritage. Shri Arvind Mishra, State Convener, and Dr. Rakesh Tiwari, Raipur Convener, shared details of various chapter activities. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, INTACH members, and dignitaries. The Mahasamund Chapter secured the first position.

BIHAR – 12 OCTOBER 2025

The INTACH Patna Chapter organized the State-Level Heritage Quiz at the Buddha Smriti Park Museum Auditorium, Patna. Winners of the City-Level Quizzes from Patna, Gaya, Nawada, Bhagalpur, and Purnea participated showcasing their knowledge of India's rich cultural heritage. The quiz featured audio, visual, and pictorial rounds and was conducted by Quiz Master Shri Atul Priyadarshi, Chief Mechanical Engineer, East Central Railway. The team from Vidya Vihar Residential School, Purnea (Sabal Kumar and Darshil) emerged as winners, while St. Karen's School, Patna (Arnav Prakash and Jayesh Rana) secured second place. Medals, mementos, and certificates were presented. Dr. Shiv Kumar Mishra from Buddha Smriti Park congratulated the winners and emphasized fostering heritage awareness among children.

MADHYA PRADESH – 25 OCTOBER 2025

The Madhya Pradesh State Round of the INTACH National Heritage Quiz 2025 was held at Gwalior Glory High School, Gwalior. The quiz featured five rounds on Personalities, Monuments, Intangible Heritage, Natural Heritage, and Mythology. After a closely contested session, the Mandla team from Nirmala Senior Secondary School, represented by Harshika Sonkesri and Anshika Yadav, emerged as winners. The event was attended by INTACH Governing Council Members Shri Neelkamal Maheshwari and Shri Rajiv Tomar and hosted with full support from Gwalior Glory High School. Winners received trophies and INTACH publications, while all participants were awarded heritage and educational books.

KERALA – 1 NOVEMBER 2025

INTACH Heritage Quiz – Kerala Rounds was held on November 1, 2025, at the ASI Hall, Palakkad Fort, from 2-4 pm. Six schools participated, with 12 students competing and around 30 parents, teachers, and guests attending. The event was organised and conducted by 10 INTACH team members. Following the prescribed format, the quiz featured an oral semi-final and a pursuit-style final round to select the Kerala State winner. The programme met its objectives of providing a welcoming environment for outstation participants, delivering a competition befitting a national-level organisation, and highlighting Kerala's diverse heritage beyond the standard school curriculum. Sreehari C Nair and Nandakishore K. S. of Bharathiya Vidya Bhavan's Vidya Mandir from Thrissur secured the first position.

GUJARAT – 4 OCTOBER 2025

The Gujarat State Finals were held at Bright Day School, Vadodara, with six winning schools from Ahmedabad, Bhavnagar, Bharuch, Jamnagar and Rajkot participating. Quizmaster Ms. Tarisha Desai conducted the three-round quiz in both English and Gujarati to support a Gujarati-medium team. After two on-stage rounds, four teams advanced to the rapid-fire final. Bright Day School CBSE Vasna Unit, represented by Datt Patel and S. Karthick (Class 9), won and will represent Gujarat at the National Finals in Delhi. Shanti Asiatic School, Ahmedabad and Shree Satya Sai Vidhyalay, Jamnagar placed second and third.

UTTAR PRADESH – 30 OCTOBER

The INTACH Lucknow Chapter organized the UP State Final of the National Heritage Quiz 2025 at La Martiniere College. Nine teams from across Uttar Pradesh, having won their respective local finals, competed in the event. The quiz featured multiple rounds testing students' awareness of India's rich history and culture. The winners were felicitated by N. K. S. Chauhan, Officer on Special Duty to the Chief Minister; Gary Everett, Principal, La Martiniere College, Lucknow; Dr Neetu Agarwal, Convener, INTACH Lucknow Chapter; Dhanunjay Varshney,



Madhya Pradesh



Bihar



Kerala state round



Gujarat



Uttar Pradesh State



West Bengal

Co-Convenor; quiz master Surabhi Modi Sahai, INTACH Members Ms Kanak Rekha Chauhan, Prof Sumna Varshney and Mr AK Srivastava. The first prize went to Anshu Singh and Vartika Mishra of Army Public School, Ayodhya.

WEST BENGAL – 30 OCTOBER

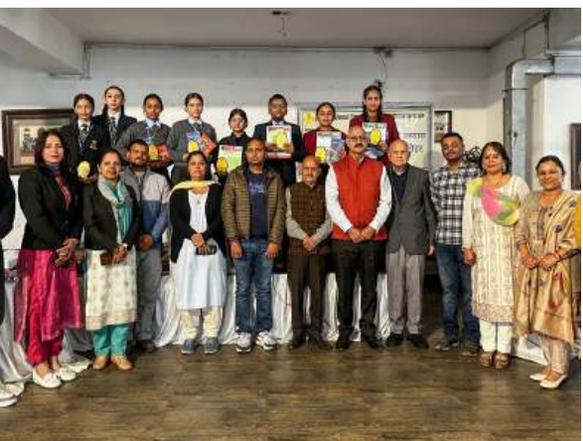
INTACH Calcutta Regional Chapter organised the state round at Apeejay School Park Street, Kolkata. In this competition 6 students from 3 schools representing the Calcutta, Hooghly and Murshidabad Chapters of INTACH participated. The programme started with the inauguration speech by Mr. Balaknath Bhattacharyya, Convenor, Murshidabad Chapter. The quiz competition was conducted by the quizmaster Smita Mehta, member of INTACH, Calcutta Chapter over 5 rounds. Sargachi Ramakrishna Mission High School representing INTACH Murshidabad Chapter won the State Level of the quiz.



Punjab

PUNJAB – 7 NOVEMBER

INTACH Punjab State Chapter conducted the state level Quiz competition at Army Public School Beas. Maj Gen Balwinder Singh, VSM (Retd), INTACH Punjab State Convenor said that every year this is done to ensure that our younger generation is informed about our cultural heritage. This year eleven districts of Punjab participated- Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Ferozpur, Sangrur, Faridkot, Hoshiarpur, Bathinda, Malerkotla, Patiala, Jalandhar and Kapurthala. Spring Dale students: Sehajnoor Kaur and Saurish Nagpal topped and will be representing Punjab in the National which would be held in Delhi in December. The second position was notched by MGN Public School Kapurthala. Mr Rupinder Nijjar and MS Rashima Singh were the Quiz masters.



Himachal Pradesh

ANDHRA PRADESH – 9 OCTOBER

The Andhra Pradesh State-Level Heritage Quiz was held at SKR and SKR Women's Degree College, Kadapa, with the permission of Mr. S.V.S. Lakshmi Narayan, State Convenor, and under the supervision of Mr. K. Chinappa Reddy, Convenor, INTACH Kadapa Chapter. Winners of the city rounds from Anantapur, Guntur, Kadapa, Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam, and Machilipatnam participated in a field visit to heritage sites in Kadapa on the first day (8 November). On the second day (9 November), the participants showcased their knowledge of India's rich cultural heritage through the quiz competition. The team from Anantapur: Y. Midhun Kumar and G. Bharath Rathore of Rotary English Medium School, secured the first position.

HIMACHAL PRADESH – 10 NOVEMBER

The Himachal Pradesh Quiz state round was organised on 10 November 2025 in collaboration with HECS division INTACH. The teams were from Shimla, Kangra, Dharamshala, and Mandi. It was organised at the Hall of Raj Mahal Hotel & Restaurant. Mr. Abhishek Das, Senior Programme Manager at HECS was the quiz master assisted by Mr. Deepanshu, Programme Coordinator. The event began with a welcome and introduction by Mr. Naresh Malhotra, Convenor, Mandi Chapter and was conducted in four rounds. At the end of the quiz Shourya and Angna Pathania of Achievers' Hub Sr. Sec. School, Dharamshala secured the first position. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Anil Sharma, Co-convenor, Mandi Chapter.



Andhra Pradesh

RAJASTHAN – 11 NOVEMBER

Rajasthan Quiz state round was organised with the help of the INTACH Jodhpur chapter. The quiz was organised at the Chokelav Mahal of Mehrangarh fort. It was attended by the teams from Ajmer, Alwar, Bhilwara, Beawar, Barmer, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Karauli, Sirohi, Jaipur, and Udaipur. The event was graced by the Deputy Commissioner of Jodhpur Development Authority Mrs. Aditi Purohit. Dr. Mahendra Singh Tanwar, Convenor, Jodhpur Chapter welcomed all the students and the teacher to the quiz. After four thrilling rounds, Kritika Jindal and Keshav Garg of Cambridge Court World School, Jaipur secured the first position, followed by Ishant Chaturvedi and Purvi Chaturvedi of Lokhitkari Sr. Sec. School, Karauli, and Tamanna Singh and Anvi Agrawal of Bangar Public School, Beawar. The quiz ended with a vote of thanks by the Convenor, Mr. Tanwar.



Rajasthan



FILMIT India

This year (2025-2026), FILMIT India marked its 18th year. As part of the project, FILMIT India Workshops were held and planned across various FILMIT cities. Mr. Feisal Alkazi and the HECS team conducted the content workshops, while the technical workshops were done by the team from the Tuning Fork Films – Mr. Ankit Pogula, Ms. Himanshi Saini, Ms. Sasha Singh, Ms. Shikha Gupta, Mr. Aditya Verma, Mr. Vinod Sreedhar and Mr. Anshul Uniyal.

CHAPTER	ATTENDANCE, CONTENT HIGHLIGHTS AND SUPPORT
DELHI 28 & 29 July INTACH	114 students and 39 teachers from 38 schools from Delhi NCR An engaging session was held for the Delhi NCR schools, where the students were introduced to the themes through engaging exploration of storytelling, filmmaking, and cultural heritage.
DELHI 30 & 31 July 2025 INTACH	112 students and 39 teachers from 38 schools from Delhi NCR The event witnessed enthusiastic participation, with technical experts guiding students through the intricacies of crafting an engaging film.
VARANASI & AYODHYA 31 July 2025 Sunbeam School, Lahartara	150 students and teachers from 18 Schools of Varanasi and 5 schools of Ayodhya Varanasi Convenor Mr. Ashok Kapoor, Co Convenors Mr. Nirmal Joshi and Mr. Anil Keshari, Sunbeam Chairman Mr. Deepak Madhok, Principal of the host school and Ms. Perveen Quaiser graced the occasion.
CHANDIGARH & AMBALA 31 July 2025 Strawberry Fields High School, Chandigarh	61 students and 16 teachers from 9 schools of Chandigarh and 4 schools from Ambala Students gained insights into the art of filmmaking and explored creative ways to share heritage through the lens of a camera. The event was graced by Ms. Deepika Gandhi and Mr. Vivek Atrey, Co-Convenors of the INTACH Chandigarh Chapter, along with Col. R.D. Singh, Convenor of the INTACH Ambala Chapter.
AMRITSAR & PUNJAB 1 August Spring Dale Senior School, Amritsar	63 students and 24 teachers across 6 Amritsar schools and 7 from other parts of Punjab cities (Beas, Kapurthala, Tarn Taran, Ferozepur, Hoshiarpur and Jalandhar). The workshop provided students with valuable insights on the themes and hands-on training in filmmaking. Distinguished attendees included Maj. Gen. Balwinder Singh, Convenor, INTACH Punjab Chapter; Mr. Gagandeep Virk, Convenor, INTACH Amritsar Chapter; and Mr. Rajiv Sharma, Principal, Spring Dale Senior School.
KOLKATA 1 August Sri Sri Academy, Alipore	78 students and 21 teachers from 15 schools Students learnt about the technicalities of filmmaking. Ms. Kanchana Mukhopadhyay, Co-Convenor INTACH Kolkata Chapter graced the occasion.
VADODARA 5 August 2025 Navrachana International School, Vasna	85 students and teachers from 12 schools from Vadodara, Ankeleshwar and Bharuch. A tribute to the iconic film Sholay set the stage for an engaging introduction to the themes and process of filmmaking. The event was attended by Mr. Sanjeev Joshi, Convenor, INTACH Vadodara Chapter; Ms. Tarisha Desai, Co-Convenor; and school principals from both the CBSE and IB wings – Ms. Kashmiria Jaiswal and Mr. Theophane D'Souza.
AHMEDABAD 6th August 2025 Shreyas Foundation	72 students and 20 teachers from 12 schools Students in Ahmedabad received training in filmmaking and were introduced to thematic concepts. The session was attended by Ms. Utpalaben, Convenor of INTACH Ahmedabad; Mr. Abhay Mangaldas, Chairman of the Shreyas Foundation; and Ms. Lataben, Principal of the Shreyas Foundation.
JAIPUR 7 August 2025 Neerja Modi School	72 students and 25 teachers from 15 schools An insightful session on filmmaking and thematic exploration was conducted, graced by the presence of Mr. Nikhil Pandit, Co-Convenor of INTACH Jaipur.
MUMBAI 7 August 2025 IES College of Architecture	Over 60 students and 16 teachers from 10 schools Students were introduced to the process of filmmaking and thematic concepts during the workshop. The IES team, led by Ms. Shilpa Chandawarkar, also participated in the session.
GOA 8 August 2025 Sharada Mandir School, Miramar	82 students and 17 teachers from 12 schools The workshop introduced the students the themes as well the training in filmmaking. Ms. Fatima, Convenor of INTACH Goa and Ms. Sharmila Umesh, Principal of Sharada Mandir School were also present.
HYDERABAD 12 August Gitanjali Devashray	95 students and 25 teachers from 25 schools An engaging session focused on thematic exploration and filmmaking training was conducted. Mrs. Anuradha Reddy, Convenor of the INTACH Hyderabad Chapter, and Mrs. Kasturi Chatterjee, Principal of the host school were also present.
CHENNAI 13 August Sri Sankara Sr. Sec. School, Adyar	65 students and 15 teachers from 11 schools The students were introduced to the themes and also received training in filmmaking. Host school Principal and Vice Principal Mrs. Vijayalakshmi and Mrs. Kavitha respectively and Ms. Sujatha Shankar, Convenor INTACH Chennai Chapter also attended.
KOCHI 14 August Kerala Museum, Kochi	57 students, 13 teachers from 11 schools An insightful session thematic exploration and training on filmmaking was conducted. The workshop was attended by Mr. Babu C. Rajeev, Convenor of the INTACH Kochi Chapter; Ms. Aditi Nair, Director of the Kerala Museum; and Mr. Biley Menon, Co-Convenor of the INTACH Kochi Chapter.



Mumbai



Hyderabad



Chennai



Jaipur

Jaipur International Film Festival (JIFF)

28 – 29 AUGUST 2025

Six of FILMIT India project films were selected for the Jaipur International Film Festival (JIFF) which was held on 28th- 29th August 2025. All of the six films were awarded as well. The films were Shyam Sunder Paliwal and his theory of Eco-Feminism – Lilavatibai Podar High (1st), Celebrating 300 Years of Ahilya Bai Holkar: A Legacy of Justice, Compassion, and Empowerment Seth Mr Jaipuria School, Babatpur, Varanasi (2nd), Mangrove Whispers, Indus Valley World School, Kolkata (3rd), My Village Lilapore Navrachana International School, Vadodara (6th), The Soul of Sarkhej Roza, Mahatma Gandhi International School, Ahmedabad (6th), Itihas Ki Amar Darohar – Nurpur Fort, Spring Dale Sr. School, Amritsar (16th)

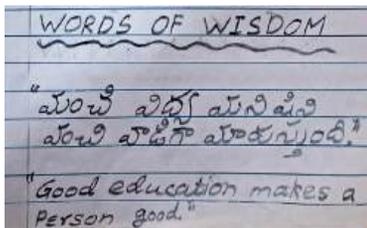
6th Footprint Film Festival at IGNC, New Delhi

31 OCTOBER 2025

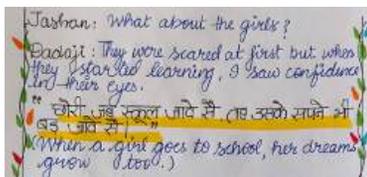
INTACH participated in the 6th Footprint Film Festival, held in collaboration with IGNC and The Peninsula Studio at IGNC, Janpath, New Delhi. Six student-made heritage films from INTACH's FILMIT Project were screened, including the award-winning *Stirring up History: the Origin of Pav Bhaji* by Don Bosco Sr. Sec. School, Mumbai. An interactive session titled Heritage through Films was led by Ms. Purnima Datt, supported by Mr. Abhishek Das and Ms. Christina Shangne. Around 60 students from various Delhi schools, including CM Shree Schools explored how sensory storytelling can express personal and cultural heritage. One student also shared their experience making a film on *Kabootarbaazi* in Old Delhi, highlighting how cinema can preserve traditions and foster cultural pride.



Session on Heritage through films at the Footprint Film Festival at IGNC, New Delhi



Bavisha Kodam (Telugu)



Jashan Singh (Haryanvi)

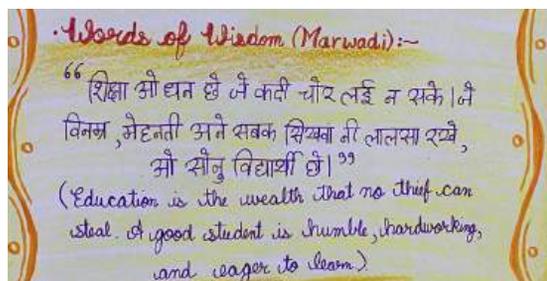
Education and Elders Social Media Challenge – National Education Day (11 November)

HECS conducted the Education and Elders Challenge across our social media to celebrate the National Education Day. We received entries from across the country in different languages. In this challenge children were asked to interview their grandparents and ask them what they believed are the qualities of good education. Here are some of the best entries:

1. Bavisha Kodam (Telugu), Class II, The Global Edge School, Kokapet
2. G. Logasari (Tamil), Class VIII, Royal Park School, Salem
3. Jashan Singh (Haryanvi), Class IX, Prime Steps International School, Ambala Cantt
4. Nirvi Jain (Marwari), Class IX, Seedling Modern Public School, Udaipur
5. Prakriti Sharma (Punjabi), Class IX, R. D. Khosla D. A. V. Model Sr. Sec. School, Batala
6. Ruhanika Motwani (Sindhi), Class III, Maharana Mewar Public School, Udaipur



Prakriti Sharma



Nirvi Jain (Marwari)



Ruhanika Motwani



▼ CULTURAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

The lecture **1857 In Delhi – A World Turned Upside Down, and the Road to Freedom** by Dr Swapna Liddle, a historian and author, was held on 11 August 2025 at the INTACH Multipurpose Hall, New Delhi. The lecture was streamed live on YouTube.

The lecture focused on the revolt of 1857 which was a momentous event in the history of India. It engulfed vast territories and galvanized countless Indians to rise up against the rule of the British East India Company. Though the uprising failed to sweep away British rule, it nevertheless brought about important transformations that would have a significant influence on the course of colonial rule. It would also shape the future of the freedom struggle in important ways. The issues related to the revolt were discussed with a special emphasis on Delhi, which was an important centre of the revolt, and was also profoundly changed by it. One may also argue that city's emergence as the capital of Independent India in 1947 led back in some ways to the uprising of 1857.



Dr Swapna Liddle: The lecture in progress



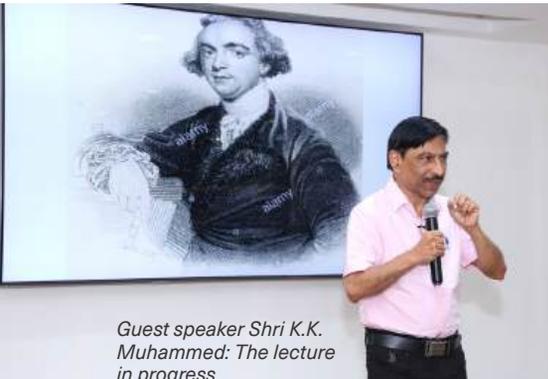
Guest speaker Shri K.K. Muhammed: The lecture in progress



Token of appreciation from Chairman, Shri Ashok Singh Thakur to Dr Swapna Liddle



Chairman, Shri Ashok Singh Thakur, Member Secretary, Shri Ravindra Singh (Retd. IAS), Founder Member Prof. Menon and GC Member Shri Maheshwari at the lecture



Guest speaker Shri K.K. Muhammed: The lecture in progress



The lecture **Stories from Indian Archaeology** by Shri K.K. Muhammed was held on 12 August 2025 at the INTACH Multipurpose Hall, New Delhi.

It focused on Indian Archaeology which is replete with several fascinating stories, as archaeologists have conducted numerous explorations and excavations in different parts of the country. Archaeology reveals very grudgingly, and that too when bits and pieces of archaeological finds are linked, crafted and woven painstakingly into each other. For example, although Charles Masson, had located Harappa in 1826 and the renowned archaeologist Alexander Cunningham visited it in 1853, the real significance of the site as one of the birthplaces of the ancient civilizations in the then-known world, sadly, eluded him. After ninety-eight years, in a sudden turn of events, archaeologists R.D. Banerjee and John Marshall realized the real significance of Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro and surprised the historical world. Similarly, although the site at Badgaon was located near Rajgir in Bihar in 1811 by Francis Buchanan, it was not until 50 years later, in 1861, that Alexander Cunningham could identify it as the site of the ancient "Great Nalanda University, where the great Chinese traveler Xuan Zang was both a student and a teacher." Likewise, the discovery of Ibadat Khana (the hall of Interreligious discussions) and Christian Chapel at Fatehpuri Sikri were identified by Shri K. K. Muhammed.

Chairman, Shri Ashok Singh Thakur, Member Secretary, Shri Ravindra Singh (Retd. IAS) and Founder Member Prof. Menon (front row) listening to the lecture

A series of illustrated lectures on **Stepwells in India** from 23 to 26 September were organized at INTACH Multipurpose Hall, New Delhi. A detailed article on stepwells is published under 'Feature Article'

23 September | Designing Water. Morphology and Histories of the Stepwells of India

Dr Jutta Jain-Neubauer, Art Historian and Specialist in Water-Architecture

https://youtube.com/live/b_IN-whgcuo?feature=share



Guest speaker Dr Jutta Jain-Neubauer:
The lecture in progress



Audience at the lecture



Chairman, Shri Ashok Singh Thakur, Member Secretary, Shri Ravindra Singh (IAS Retd.) with Guest Speaker presenting INTACH Publications

24 September | Restoring the stepwells of Golconda

Ratish Nanda, CEO Aga Khan Trust for Culture, New Delhi

<https://youtube.com/live/2tNH36jYaUQ?feature=share>



Director Cultural Affairs introducing the speaker and the focus area of the lecture



Guest speaker Ratish Nanda: The lecture in progress



Audience at the lecture

25 September | Contemporizing Traditional Water-Architecture: Birkha Bawari (A 21st century Stepwells in India)

Anu Mridul, Architect

<https://youtube.com/live/soq8Sd9I9uo?feature=share>



Guest speaker Anu Mridul: The lecture in progress



Q/A session after the lecture



Audience at the lecture

26 September | Fieldwork on the stepwells of Maharashtra

Rohan Kale, Founder & Coordinator Maharashtra Stepwells Campaign

https://youtube.com/live/_rTsTxsndVM?feature=share



Guest speaker Rohan Kale:
The lecture in progress



Member Secretary INTACH, Shri Ravindra Singh (IAS Retd.) presenting INTACH Publications to the speaker and Mrs. Kale, in the presence of Chairman, Shri Ashok Singh Thakur



Member Secretary, Shri Ravindra Singh (IAS Retd.), during the Q/A session after the lecture



World Heritage Week Celebrations

A series of lectures on the subject **Gaja Lok** was organized from 19 November to 25 November at INTACH Multipurpose Hall, New Delhi. The relationship between the elephant and man developed about four millennia ago in the Indian Subcontinent. *Gaja Lok* explores the enduring and evolving relationship between humans and the Asian elephant. Rooted in cultural memory and ecological reality, it weaves together historical, cultural, spiritual and environmental narratives, spanning centuries and connecting India with Southeast Asia in a shared tradition of coexistence. A curated series of lectures explored the intersection of cultural, environmental and historical narratives of man-elephant interconnectedness. What did the *Arthashastra* have to say about elephants? How did the Mughals use this animal as gifts and in battle? What was the British colonial encounter with the animal like? The journeys of Indian elephants beyond the subcontinent. It was streamed live and the topics of the series **Gaja Lok** are given below and their links.

19 November | Elephants in Indian History

Dr Pratyay Nath, Associate Professor of History, Ashoka University

<https://youtube.com/live/08Upu79d-vU?feature=share>



Guest Speaker Dr Pratyay Nath:
The lecture in progress



Chairman, Shri Ashok Singh Thakur and Ms. Anita Singh,
GC Member, presenting INTACH Publications to the speaker



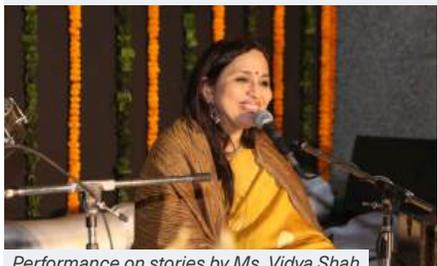
Interested audience listening keenly to the lecture

Cultural Evening at INTACH Aangan during World Heritage Week Celebrations

A performance by Vidya Shah on Gajendra Moksha – Stories in Bhav and Bhakti

Through the legend of Gajendra Moksha, Vidya Shah, an eminent singer and musician, explored in song the connections between earth, forests, rivers, and the spirit that binds all living beings. Rooted in the traditions of North Indian semi-classical music, the performance reimagines an ancient tale as a metaphor that celebrates nature and culture.

19 November | Cultural Programme | Vidya Shah, Singer, Musician & Writer



Performance on stories by Ms. Vidya Shah
during the Cultural Evening



Chairman, Mr. Ashok Singh Thakur, Ms. Anita Singh, GC
Member and Mrs. Manisha Singh, Director, CA, after
welcoming Ms. Vidya Shah and her co-artists



Ms. Vidya Shah performing with
co-artists at INTACH Aangan

20 November | Culture, Nature and the Management of the Asian Elephant

Prof. Raman Sukumar, National Science Chair, Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore

<https://youtube.com/live/fwecBHXAq4U?feature=share>



Guest Speaker Prof. Raman Sukumar:
The lecture in progress



Chairman, Mr. Ashok Singh Thakur presenting
INTACH Publications to the speaker



Audience at the lecture

21 November | Securing Right of Passage for Elephants in India

Vivek Menon Chair, IUCN Species Survival Commission, Founder & ED, Wildlife Trust of India

<https://youtube.com/live/rVMVLemEnb4?feature=share>



Guest Speaker Mr. Vivek Menon:
The lecture in progress



Audience at the lecture



Token of appreciation from Chairman, Shri Ashok Singh Thakur to Mr. Vivek Menon

25 November | Elephant stories from Indian Textiles

Prof. Archana Shastri, Expert in art, design, and textiles

https://youtube.com/live/T_LMgDljaMo?feature=share



Guest Speaker Prof. Archana Shastri:
The lecture in progress



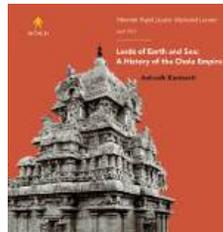
Member Secretary, Shri Ravindra Singh (IAS Retd.)
presenting INTACH Publications to the speaker



Audience at the lecture

Publications by the Division

1. Annual Report 2024 - 2025, the draft is ready and was tabled at the GC
2. The 15th Pupul Jayakar Memorial Lecture – ‘Lords of Earth and Sea: A History of the Chola Empire’ has been published.
3. INTACH Lecture Series is under production.



Additionally, the Division is currently also handling some of the projects of IHA.

INTACH Awards for Interdisciplinary Heritage Documentation 2025 – Awards Ceremony and Exhibition

The Awards Ceremony was held on 9 October where the Awards in three categories — One Award of Excellence, Three Awards of Merit and Three Commendation Awards were presented. The ceremony was attended by 35 students from the winning teams accompanied by parents and faculty. The Exhibition of award-winning works – five entries with A2 panels and two video entries were displayed at INTACH premises on 7 October 2025.



Member Secretary, Shri Ravindra Singh (IAS Retd.), lighting the lamp for the inaugural ceremony of the INTACH Awards for Interdisciplinary Heritage Documentation 2025



Chairman, Shri Ashok Singh Thakur, inaugurating the exhibition of award-winning entries at INTACH premises

Research Programme Cycle 2023 - 24

The peer reviews on the final reports have been received from 4 out of 8 reviewers. The remaining 3 are expected to be received by 15th December.

INTACH Journal of Heritage Studies – Volume 6 Issue 2 based on ‘Conserving Culturally Significant Places in India’

The publication is under progress. Six papers had been selected, in the final editing stage. Scheduled for release by the end of November (tentatively).



Chairman, Shri Ashok Singh Thakur and Member Secretary, Shri Ravindra Singh (IAS Retd.) presenting the Commendation Award



HERITAGE TOURISM DIVISION

Raipur Heritage Walks – The Raipur Chapter has conducted its first heritage walk in Raipur city and the surroundings for students. Several INTACH members, including Shri. S.N. Shukla, Shri. Sunil Baghel, Dr. Lokeshwar Prasad Sinha, and Shri. Kuleshwar Prasad Sahu, along with students from various schools and colleges, actively participated in the walk. The Chapter has covered the following heritage sites:

- TuriHatri (200 years old)
- Jagannath Swamy Temple (100 years old)
- Jaitusaav Math (200 years old)
- Shri Siddh Sankatmochan Hanuman Temple (Baoli) – (150 years old)
- Shri Mahavir Vyayamshala (Akhada) – (140 years old)
- Shri Raj Rajeshwari Mahamaya Devi Temple – (14th Century)
- Shri Ramchandra Swami Trust (Nagridas) Temple – (Approx. 100 years old)



Students and members during Raipur Heritage Walk



Students and members during Raipur Heritage Walk

Each of these monuments holds significant historic and cultural value, contributing to Raipur's rich heritage. During the walk, participants were guided by the Raipur Convenor, Dr. Rakesh Kumar Tiwari, and the Chhattisgarh State Convenor, Shri. Arvind Mishra and Co-Convenor Mrs. Shivi Joshi. They provided in-depth information about each site. The 200-year-old TuriHatri, located in the heart of the city, is regarded as the earliest symbol of women empowerment in Chhattisgarh, being a market historically run by women.

The *Jaitusaav Math*, also over 200 years old, served as a resting place for many prominent freedom fighters, including Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Rajendra Prasad, during their visits to the region. The 14th century Mahamaya Temple holds historical significance for practitioners of Tantra. The Shri Mahavir Vyayamshala (Akhada), around 140 years old, is famous for having hosted wrestling legends, including Darasingh.

The routes for the next Raipur Heritage Walks are being planned which are primarily the outskirts of the city.



Lighting of lamp by INTACH Varanasi Convener, Ashok Kapoor with guest



Delivering a talk on 'Buddhism, Local heritage and Visitors' by Dr Sumedho Thero, Buddhist Scholar



Delivering a talk on 'Jain Darshan, Kashi and Visitors' by Prof Anand Jain, Prof. BHU, Varanasi and scholar in Jain Philosophy

Gwalior Heritage Walks are being organized by the Gwalior Chapter Convenor, for students, members and other institutions in the Gwalior city. Each heritage walk of the Chapter has been planned for creating awareness of our heritage and to introduce participants to the heritage activities of the Chapter. The walks are based on engagement of the local community in the heritage activities of the city.

A One-day Sensitization Programme on the theme Domestic Tourism and Sustainable Community Economy was organized by the Varanasi Chapter in collaboration with the Association of Domestic Tour Operators of India – UP Chapter (ADTOI), Varanasi Tourism Association (VTA) and Tourist Guide Association (TGA), Varanasi. 50 service providers for visitors from Varanasi participated in the programme, which was held on 26



Delivering a talk on 'Dwadash Aditya of Kashi' by Shri Akhilesh Kumar, President Tourist Guide Association, Varanasi



Vote of thanks by Shri Neelesh Sinha, INTACH Life Member

September 2025 at Hotel Regency, Andhrapul, Varanasi. The topics covered in the programme were sustainable practices, Buddhism, Kashi and transformation, Jain Teerthankars, Museums, arts and crafts of Varanasi and issues connected with visitors and intervention of heritage interpretation, for the heritage sites in Varanasi.

Heritage Tourism Advisory Committee Meeting – 2025

An introductory meeting of the HT-AC was held on 17 July 2025 on Zoom. Member Secretary Shri Ravindra Singh, IAS (Retd) welcomed the new members of the committee on a Zoom Link. The members were asked for suggestions/discussion points for the Agenda for the next meeting. The committee members were thereafter invited for a meeting held on 16 September 2025 at the INTACH Head Office. The meeting was chaired by Member Secretary, Shri Ravindra Singh IAS (Retd). The Members of the committee are:

- Shri Ruzbeh Firoz Umrigar, Co-Convenor, Navsari Chapter
- Shri Ashok Kumar Sharma, Convenor, Morena Chapter
- Shri Kambam Chinnapa Reddy, Convenor, Kadapa Chapter
- Dr Saleem Beg, State Convenor, Jammu and Kashmir Chapter
- Shri Ashok Kapoor, Convenor, Varanasi Chapter
- Shri Rakesh Mathur, Co-Founder & EC Member, Responsible Tourism Society of India
- Ms. Rekha Khosla, Director, Heritage Tourism Division

All members attended the meeting. A wide range of topics concerning heritage awareness and its implementation through a variety of measures, was discussed at length. The agenda points were:

- Responsible heritage awareness practices need to be publicized at heritage places through stakeholders
- Awareness of heritage conservation awareness through the medium of heritage walks at heritage sites
- Standardization of MoUs on heritage issues to be examined
- Setting up of or involvement of INTACH members at the District level to promote activities at state or at the local level in a more effective manner.

The meeting resulted in a fruitful exchange of ideas and valuable suggestions. Chairman INTACH, Shri Ashok Singh Thakur, also graced the occasion. The recommendations from the Members are:

- Incorporate capsules of heritage awareness in the school education curriculums through collaboration with MoT + MoE + MoHRD
- INTACH chapters should participate in organizing local cultural festivals in districts to influence heritage issues
- Heritage Walks should be encouraged
- A member of each Chapter should be in the District administration or District Heritage committee
- INTACH Documentation should be made available in the public domain
- Standard MoU for heritage awareness should be drawn up. Suggestions from members had been invited for this exercise and draft MoU circulated.
- The Director, Heritage Tourism, attended the 17th AGM of the Responsible Tourism Society of India (RTSOI) by Zoom link on 8 November 2025. The AGM covered many issues relating to sustainable ecotourism and heritage awareness issues in the travel and tourism industry. New members were elected as per protocol.

Setting up the Longkhum Heritage Signage/ Information Board in Nagaland:

The signage board project at Longkhum village in Mokokchung district of Nagaland is in progress. The village is situated on a high precipice called 'Mongzu Ki'. Several natural heritage sites dot the Longkhum bio-space. It is a popular destination in the itinerary of visitors to Nagaland.

Due to lack of printed materials, Visitors miss out the rich repository of natural heritage sites which is the myths and legends surrounding the natural sites, such as eagle eyries, where eagles have nested for centuries and are interwoven into the fabric of Longkhum lore. Support has been provided to the Nagaland Chapter for implementation of the project.



The HT-AC meeting in progress



The HT-AC meeting in progress



A group photo of HT-AC Members along with Chairman INTACH, Shri. Ashok Singh Thakur and Member Secretary, Shri. Ravindra Singh (IAS Retd.)



PUBLICATIONS

Books

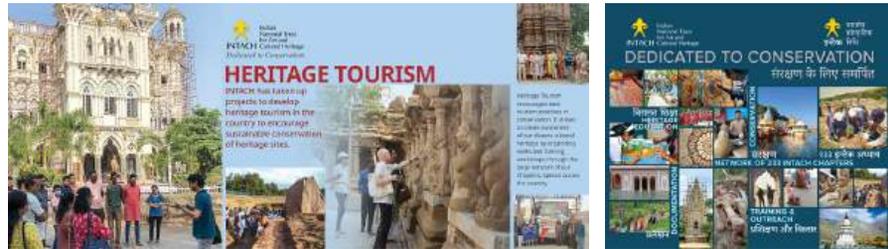
The book entitled **Orchha Kalam** has been published based on the wall paintings of Orchha which reflect the life of the Bundela Kings. The Orchha paintings of Madhya Pradesh hold a special place and the exquisite murals are not merely decorative art; they are vivid chronicles of the life, beliefs, and times of the Bundela kings who once ruled this region.

The booklet titled **Kashi ke Bara Aditya** has been published for promotion of the cultural and religious heritage of Kashi. It covers the old traditions of Kashi, Dwadash Aaditya Parikrama, Panchkoshi Parikrama/Yatra, 56 Vinayak Parikrama/Yatra, Antargrihi Yatra etc. The booklet was presented to Shri Pulkit Garg (IAS), Vice Chairman, Varanasi Development Authority. The local publishers showed their interest in publicizing the local heritage through the booklet.

A booklet titled **Bhartiya Sikko ka Itihas** has been reprinted by the Convenor, Gwalior Chapter. It was earlier published by the Shivpuri Chapter. The booklet includes a historical perspective on coins, their utility and how to mint coins.

Misc. Activities

- INTACH Publications were posted to the National Library of India for their libraries in Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai and Delhi: INTACH Journal of Heritage Studies – Heritage and Communities (Volume 6 Issue 1) 2025 and Wall Painting Sites of Himachal Pradesh – 1 copy only for the Kolkata Library
- Raja Ram Mohan Rai Library Foundation, Kolkata – The Division has submitted two sample copies of the following INTACH Publications for selection process to the Central Book Selection Committee of the Foundation : Conserving the spirit of a Historic Garden and Buddhist Searches in Jharkhand
- INTACH Exhibition in Mumbai from 4 to 9 August 2025: Two attractive exhibition panels on the activities of HT and Publications were designed and sent to the exhibition organized by the Greater Mumbai Chapter.



- A brochure for the Chapters Division is being produced on its activities with colourful images of the special projects. It includes: INTACH'S Code of Ethics, Formation of Chapters, Role and Activities of Chapters, Membership, Orientation and Capacity Building Workshops, Convenors' Conventions and Meetings, Iconic projects by the Chapters and Newsletters, Chapters' Publications

The Division has generated digital ISBN for INTACH publications for the following book(s):

Title of the book	ISBN	Author/Editor	Publication month
The Fifteenth Pupil Jayakar Memorial Lecture – Lords of Earth and Sea: A History of the Chola Empire	978-81-987776-6-9	Anirudh Kaniseti	October 2025

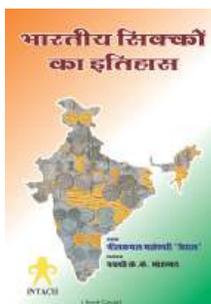
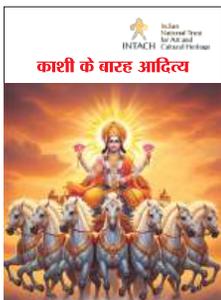
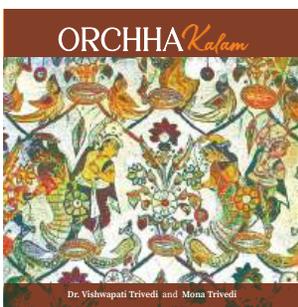
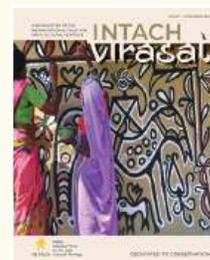


Image of the appreciation letter



INTACH Virasat Newsletter

The Division produces the triannual newsletter Virasat, which features the work of all divisions and the network of Chapters with colourful photographs reflecting the range of activities along with articles from the Divisions/Chapters and Book Review /Heritage Information and Remarkable Heritage columns.

INTACH has received an appreciation letter for the newsletter from Shri. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union Minister of Culture and Tourism, Government of India, for preserving the rich cultural heritage across the country and promoting cultural preservation.

SPECIAL FROM THE

Central Office

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



INTACH
Indian National Trust
for Art and
Cultural Heritage
71 Lodhi Estate New Delhi - 110003

The **62nd meeting of the Executive Committee of INTACH** was held on 4 September 2025 at the INTACH Head Office, New Delhi. INTACH Chairman, Shri Ashok Singh Thakur extended a welcome to all members present at the meeting. The Chairman solemnly announced the sad demise of former Governing Council member, Ms. Tara Murali who passed away on 26 July 2025. All attendees observed two minutes of silence in her memory.

The **Monitoring Committee meeting** for review of physical and financial progress of projects implemented with interest income from Special Corpus Fund was held on 23 July 2025 at INTACH Head Office, New Delhi.

Special meeting of the **Project Selection Committee** was held on 22 September 2025 at INTACH Head Office, New Delhi

The **63rd meeting of the Executive Committee of INTACH** was held on 18 November 2025 at INTACH Head Office, New Delhi.

The next meeting of the **Governing Council of INTACH** is scheduled to be held on 4 December 2025 at INTACH Head Office, New Delhi



AT THE Grassroots

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





CHAPTERS DIVISION

Andhra Pradesh

GUNTUR

The Chapter successfully organized the Heritage Quiz, which saw enthusiastic participation from school directors, principals, teachers, and students. Fourteen schools comprising twenty-eight teams participated in the written round, out of which seven teams qualified for the final round. Sk. Javed Abrar and Sk. Naveed from St. Laurels Public School emerged as winners and will represent the city in the state-level competition, while Ch. Lahari and K. Rohita from Dr. KLP Public School were declared runners-up. The Chapter extends its gratitude to Mr. P. Ramachandra Raju, Secretary, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, and members Dr. A. Rajasekhar, A. Venugopal, and S. Vijaykumar for their support.

SRIKAKULAM

On 4 November, during a meeting at the Visakhapatnam DRM Office, Civil Aviation Minister Shri K. Rammohan Naidu presented the proposal for developing Dusi Railway Station, including the heritage work proposed by INTACH. The General Manager confirmed that work would begin in December, following discussions with INTACH members, and later visited the station to direct the DRM to immediately start developing the Gandhi Smritivanam. This intervention has accelerated the heritage project significantly, and INTACH senior member Ponnada Ravikumar



KondamKotha Festival – Srikakulam Chapter

expressed gratitude for the support in preserving the site's historical value.

The ARTS team organized a cultural event in T. K. Jamu village as part of the program to strengthen tribal children's education through culture and traditional identity. Children and elders celebrated the Kondam Kotha festival, which marks the harvest of Podu paddy and serves as a learning experience that connects children to their agricultural heritage and sustainable farming traditions. The festival enabled intergenerational sharing of knowledge, reinforcing the importance of Podu cultivation and nurturing cultural pride and identity among the children, ensuring that indigenous practices remain vibrant.

The ARTS team facilitated an important visit by an international delegation from IFAD and Malawi, supported by NABARD under the JIVA project. The delegation participated in a Seed Festival showcasing indigenous agricultural practices and observed traditional methods of harvest celebration and seed preservation. A

display of millet and indigenous seed varieties arranged in a circular, flower-like pattern highlighted the community's deep connection to nature and biodiversity.

The ARTS team conducted the National Quiz Programme on Heritage and Culture for children at the Srikakulam District level, organized by INTACH. The programme engaged students with the region's history, traditions, and cultural assets, promoting cultural literacy and interest in heritage. The quiz encouraged deeper learning about monuments, arts, and history, strengthening children's cultural identity and supporting long-term preservation of local and national heritage.

A comprehensive health camp was organized in Jilledupadu Tribal Village in collaboration with JCI, Rotary, and doctor families from Srikakulam, alongside efforts to promote tourism in tribal villages. The camp provided essential medical checkups, improving immediate health access for the community. During interactions, villagers expressed strong interest in participating



Preservation of heritage at Dusi Railway Station – Srikakulam Chapter



Tourism Promotion and Health Checkup Camp – Srikakulam Chapter

as hosts and guides to share their culture, traditions, and indigenous practices with visitors. This initiative addressed critical health needs while laying the foundation for a sustainable tourism model that supports tribal culture and creates new livelihood opportunities.

✓ **VIJAYAWADA**

The Chapter marked a major milestone with the formation of its new chapter in Vijayawada on 12 October. The event brought together heritage enthusiasts, dignitaries, and INTACH members to celebrate the organization’s growing presence in Andhra Pradesh.

The day began with a Family Heritage Drive in the ‘City of Caves and Canals,’ where members, dignitaries, and the public explored historical sites with their families. The rally was inaugurated by Mr. G. Lakshmisha, IAS, Collector and District Magistrate of Vijayawada, and flagged off by Shri Ashok Singh Thakur, Chairman, INTACH. About 125 participants joined the event, supported by student volunteers from leading institutions.

The installation ceremony at the Vijayawada Club began with a welcome address by Ms. Prasuna Balantrapu, Co-Convenor of the new chapter. Distinguished guests included Shri Ashok Singh Thakur, Chairman, INTACH; Gp. Capt. (Retd.) Arvind Shukla, Director, Chapters Division, INTACH; Mr. K. Chinnapa Reddy, Member, Governing Council, INTACH; Mr. Ramu Kumar, Convenor, Anantapur Chapter; Mr. Vedakumar Manikonda from INTACH Hyderabad; and Mr. S.V.S. Lakshmi Narayana, State Convenor, Andhra Pradesh.

In his address, Shri Ashok Singh Thakur, Chairman, INTACH highlighted the importance of preserving Vijayawada’s cultural and architectural heritage and appointed Mr. S.V.S. Lakshmi Narayana as State Convenor of Andhra Pradesh. Gp. Capt. (Retd.) Arvind Shukla announced the formation of INTACH’s 240th Chapter at Vijayawada, appointing Mr. Sai Papineni as Convenor and Ms. Prasuna Balantrapu as Co-Convenor.



Vijayawada Chapter inauguration by Chairman INTACH, Shri Ashok Singh Thakur (centre above) and flagging off the rally – Vijayawada Chapter



The new Chapter outlined plans to document heritage sites, conduct awareness programs, and work with local authorities on restoration projects. Ms. Uma Adusumilli, Director, Strategy, APCRDA, emphasized the need for scientific documentation, while Mr. Satish Chaganti pledged support for upcoming initiatives. The newly formed chapter aims to strengthen heritage conservation in the city through collaborative and community-driven efforts.



Heritage Walk to Mahabodhi Temple – Gaya Chapter

Assam

A two-day Philately Exhibition was organized by the University Museum and Department of History in collaboration with the Department of Posts (Philately Section, Guwahati) and INTACH Assam Chapter on 6 and 7 August. The event aimed to showcase the cultural and historical significance of philately through stamps and stories. The exhibition was inaugurated by the Honourable Vice Chancellor, Prof. Alok Kr. Buragohain, with a welcome address by Ms. Sanhati Adhikary, Museum In-Charge. Fifteen frames, featuring about 1,595 stamps and 122 rare covers, were displayed. Renowned philatelists Mr. Binod Jain, Mr. Vishal Sangneria, and Ms. Tapasi Barman exhibited their collections, celebrating postal heritage and artistry.

A special talk on philately was delivered by Swapnani Barua, IAS (Retd) and Prof. Surajit Mukhopadhyay, Dean, Royal School of Humanities and Social Sciences. The exhibition successfully



Heritage Quiz – Gaya Chapter

promoted awareness of philately's enduring educational and cultural value.

Bihar

✓ GAYA

The Chapter, in association with IIM Bodhgaya, organised a Heritage Walk to the Mahabodhi Temple on 31 August as part of the orientation programme for the

new batch of the Integrated Programme in Management. The walk saw enthusiastic participation from the students, offering them an engaging introduction to the cultural and historical significance of Bodhgaya.

The Chapter, in collaboration with DAV School Cantonment Area, conducted the city round of the INTACH National Heritage Quiz on 7 October at DAV Cantonment School. Several schools participated actively. The team from DAV Cantonment, represented by Shri Niraj Kumar Bharati and Shri Suraj Kumar, emerged as winners.

✓ NAWADA

A public meeting under the Save Heritage-Save Environment programme was held on 28 July at Tateshvar Nath Temple, jointly organized by the Chapter and the Warisaliganj Block Unit of the National Senior Citizens Association. Chief guest Professor Bachchan Kumar Pandey highlighted INTACH's work in heritage preservation and announced plans to document heritage sites across Nawada



Philately Exhibition at The Assam Royal Global University – Assam Chapter

district, along with the expansion of Kaithi script training to Nalanda.

The Heritage Quiz 2025, organized by the Chapter, saw active participation from students across multiple groups. After written and oral rounds, Karan Raj and Rishabh of Kanhai Inter School secured first place.

▼ PATNA

The Chapter, in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Photography, organized the INTACH National Salon 2024 to support the proposal for including Chhath Puja in the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list. The competition featured four sections—Open Color, Open Monochrome, World in Focus, and Photo Journalism—and received strong participation from photographers across the country. First-place winners in each category were awarded medals.

The Patna Kalam Style Training Programme 5.0, held at Archana Kala Kendra from 8 to 15 June, trained 32 artists in traditional Patna Kalam techniques. Rupesh Kumar served as the resource person, and experts from academia, tourism, and the arts addressed the participants.

The 'Angarh' Clay Art Exhibition and Workshop, conducted from 13 to 19 July by INTACH Patna Chapter, Buddha Smriti Park Museum, and Your Heritage, trained 52 women artists in traditional clay craft. Under the guidance of artist Alka Das, participants created a variety of traditional clay objects, emphasising their cultural and environmental value. Speakers from the museum, theatre, and archaeology sectors highlighted the deep historical roots of clay art. The workshop concluded with an exhibition of the artworks, which remained open for public viewing for over a week.

A week-long training programme on Photogrammetry in Heritage Documentation and Conservation was held from 18 to 24 July, organised by the Department of Architecture and Planning, NIT Patna, in collaboration with INTACH Patna Chapter. The programme was inaugurated by IAS officer Rachna Patil, with a curriculum

developed by experts in architecture and conservation. Dr. Umesh Chandra Dwivedi addressed the opening ceremony, and the closing session featured INTACH representative Bhairav Lal Das as chief guest.

On 26 July, the Chapter held a formal meeting at Buddha Smriti Park Museum, Patna, to review income and expenditure statements, audit reports, annual reports, and future plans. The book *History of Patna* by Prof. Anand Mohan Sharan was released, and Chief Guest Dr. Nigam Prakash Narayan highlighted Pataliputra's historical significance as a global center of science, technology, trade, and governance.

A three-day Kaithi Script Workshop was conducted from 12 to 14 August at Vidyapati Bhawan, Patna, jointly organized by Maithili Sahitya Sansthan, Unreal Tech, and the Council for Diversity and Innovation. INTACH Patna Chapter Convener Bhairav Lal Das and Co-Convener Dr. Shivkumar Mishra served as resource persons, providing training on this endangered script.

The city-level Heritage Quiz, held on 23 August, at Buddha Smriti Park Museum, saw participation from schools across Patna, Rohtas, Bhojpur, and Saran districts. DPS Patna team of Khanak Verma and Riyansh secured first place. The event was organized jointly by INTACH Patna Chapter, Buddha Smriti Park Museum, and Your Heritage, with expert addresses. The Patna Kalam Workshop 6.0 concluded on 14 September with a closing ceremony attended by Mrs. Swadha Rizvi, IFS, Regional Officer, ICCR, Bihar–Jharkhand. An exhibition of paintings created by trainees was held for a week. Resource persons Mr. Jitendra Mohan and Prof. Dinesh Kumar were felicitated, and organizers emphasized the importance of anatomical study for young Patna Kalam learners.

INTACH Patna Chapter conducted two heritage surveys of the historic stepwell on the outskirts of Patna City. Coordinated by Dr. Umesh Chandra Dwivedi, Dr. Shivkumar Mishra, and Prof. Kamini Sinha, the visits assessed the deteriorating structure,

which retains water year-round and has remnants of a former balcony. An appeal has been sent to INTACH Central Office for restoration efforts.

On 28 September, Chhath Puja was officially inscribed as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage site. Announced by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in *Mann Ki Baat*, this recognition reflected years of advocacy, including efforts initiated by INTACH Patna Chapter in 2024, marking a proud moment for India and its cultural heritage.

The INTACH National Salon 2025 focused on Chhath Puja photography and was organized jointly by INTACH Patna Chapter and the Federation of Indian Photography. An international seminar on *Rituals and Traditions of Chhath Puja* was held on 11 October at Buddha Smriti Park Museum. Prof. Rob Linrothe from Northwestern University delivered the keynote address, while Dr. Shivkumar Mishra and Dr. Umesh Chandra Dwivedi discussed the historical and cultural significance of Chhath Puja and Sun worship in Bihar. Twenty-two researchers from across India presented their papers, enriching understanding of this tradition.

The INTACH State-Level Heritage Quiz was conducted on 12 October at Buddha Smriti Park Museum, bringing together nine winning teams from city-level quizzes across Patna, Gaya, Nawada, Bhagalpur, and Purnia. Sabal Kumar and Darsheel from Vidya Vihar Residential School, Purnia, won first place, and Arnav Prakash and Jayesh Rana from St. Karen's School, Patna, secured second place.

▼ PURNEA

The Chapter organized the City Level Round of the INTACH National Heritage Quiz 2025 on 30 August at Ravibansh Narayan Mishra Memorial Auditorium, Vidya Vihar Residential School (VVRS), Parora, Purnea, following school-level preliminaries that engaged around 1,300 students. A total of 126 teams from 18 schools qualified for the city-level round, which began with a lamp-lighting ceremony by Shri Raj Kumar Gupta, ADM (Law & Order), Purnea, and an



The City Level Round of INTACH National Heritage Quiz 2025 – Purnea Chapter

address by Dr. Raman Kumar Soni, Addl. Co-Convenor, INTACH Purnea Chapter. The quiz, conducted by national-level quiz master Mr. Samiran Mondal, included a written round on national, state, and local heritage, with the top six teams advancing to the stage round. Vidya Vihar Residential School's team, Sabal Kumar and Darshil, emerged as champions, The quiz fostered greater awareness of heritage among students, offered valuable exposure, and received wide media coverage for its professional conduct.

The Chapter team from Vidya Vihar Residential School, Sabal Kumar and Darsheel, won the Bihar State Round of the INTACH National Heritage Quiz 2025 held at Buddha Smriti Park Museum, Patna. This victory follows their consistent performance, having won the State Round in 2022 and secured runner-up positions in 2023 and 2024.

The state-level quiz featured nine teams from Purnea, Patna, Gaya, Bhagalpur, and Nawada, with Mr. Atul Priyadarshi serving as quiz master. The second place was claimed by Arnav Prakash and Jayesh Rana from St. Karen's High School, Patna.

School Director Ranjit Kumar Paul and Principal Nikhil Ranjan highlighted the significance of such competitions in fostering understanding and respect for India's heritage. The event was attended

by dignitaries including Bhairav Lal Das, Dr. Shivkumar Mishra, Dr. Raman, Bachchan Kumar Pandey, and others.

Chhattisgarh

The Gaurela–Pendra–Marwahi (GPM) Chapter of INTACH, Chhattisgarh, organized the City Round of the INTACH National Heritage Quiz Competition 2025 on 23 August at SS College of Education, Sarabhara, Pendra Road. A total of 130 students (65 teams) from 11 government and private schools participated, demonstrating enthusiasm and strong knowledge of heritage and culture.

The competition included a written round followed by an oral Buzzer Round for the top four teams. Kaustubh Shukla (Class 9) and Khusnuma (Class 7) from Swami Atmanand English Medium, Semra, secured first place.

Chief Guest Mr. Arvind Mishra, Convenor, INTACH Chhattisgarh State, Presiding Guest Dr. Rakesh Kumar Tiwari, Convenor, INTACH Raipur Chapter, and Special Guests Mr. Vikas Tyagi, Ms. Wendy Williams, Mr. Sharad Agarwal, Mr. Partho Chattopadhyay, Ms. Gayatri Bhosale, Ms. Kalyani Dubey, along with INTACH members Dr. Imran Siddiqui and Mr. Ansar Junjani, addressed the participants and highlighted the importance of heritage awareness.

The winning team will now represent the GPM Chapter in the Chhattisgarh State Round of the INTACH National Heritage Quiz Competition 2025. The event was successfully coordinated by Mr. Shahid Jama Khan, Convenor, GPM Chapter, and Mr. Naveen James, Co-Convenor, GPM Chapter.

The INTACH Chhattisgarh Chapter organized the state-level National Heritage Quiz on 12 October at Anand Samaj Library, Gandhi Sadan, Raipur. Students and teachers from eight chapters across the state participated.

Dr. Shiv Kumar Pandey, former Vice Chancellor, served as Chief Guest, and Mr. Shashank Sharma, Minister of State for Culture, chaired the event, delivering insightful talks on the state's heritage. Mr. Arvind Mishra, State Convenor, and Dr. Rakesh Tiwari, Raipur Convenor, highlighted INTACH's initiatives and activities.

The Mahasamund Chapter secured first place, emerging as the state-level winners. The event was attended by INTACH members, dignitaries, and a large number of students.

✓ DURG-BHILAI

The Indian Cultural Fund, Durg-Bhilai Chapter, conducted the City Round of the National Heritage Quiz on 30 August, with 98 students from 10 schools participating. Dr. Hansa Shukla, Chapter Convenor, highlighted that the quiz aims to raise awareness among children about the importance of heritage and inspire its preservation. The competition included a written round followed by an oral quiz for the top four teams Dr. Rajni Nelson, former



INTACH Heritage Quiz Competition City Round – Durg-Bhilai Chapter



Participants for INTACH Heritage Quiz Competition City Round – Durg-Bhilai Chapter

District Education Officer, served as Chief Guest, sharing insights on Durg’s historical and cultural heritage, traditional ornaments, and cultural practices. Prof. Dr. D. N. Sharma, educationist, presided over the event and emphasized the value of Earth as natural heritage and the significance of folk traditions, customs, and festivals.

The winning team from DPS Risali, Bhilai, included Ninashi Panda and Sachit Sahu.

✓ GAURELA PENDRA MARWAHI (GPM)

On the 85th death anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, tributes were paid to the poet and author of India’s national anthem *Jana Gana Mana*. Tagore had visited the Pendra Sanatorium in 1901–02 seeking treatment for his wife, Mrinalini Devi, who sadly passed away there. He performed her last rites, leaving a lasting connection with the region. The sanatorium, now named Rabindra Park, commemorates his visit with a plaque at Bilaspur Railway Station, and a statue of Tagore was installed in 2023. It has been suggested that the Mother and



Ancient artefacts – Gaurela Pendra Marwahi Chapter

Child Hospital in the Ravindra Complex be developed into a state medical college named after Mrs. Mrinalini Devi Tagore, as a lasting tribute to both Tagore and his wife.

On 23 August, the GPM Chapter of INTACH organized a Heritage Quiz Competition for students of Classes VII to X. A total of 120



Ancient artefacts – Gaurela Pendra Marwahi Chapter

students from 11 Hindi and English medium schools participated. The first place was secured by students of Atmanand English Medium School, Semra-Gaurella, guided by Ms. Kalyani Dubey.

Dhanpur, in the Pendra region, has a rich historical and religious significance. It was once an important Jain trading center and is believed to have hosted the Pandavas during their exile. The town houses an ancient temple dedicated to Goddess Adishakti Durga and several historical artifacts, including the notable statue of Beni Bai. Known locally as a Shaktipeeth, Dhanpur remains an important tourist and religious site, though some artifacts have sparked debate regarding their origins.

At the 4th Chhattisgarh State Festival, celebrating its 25th Silver Jubilee, INTACH GPM students contributed with a Chhattisgarhi dance performance. The event was supported by officials and students, including Convener Shahid Jama Khan, Co-Convenor Naveen James, Viru Yadav, Gayatri Bhosale, Swati Tiwari, Gayatri Sahu, and others.

Gujarat

✓ BHAVNAGAR

In April 2025, Bhavnagar celebrated World Heritage Day (18 April) with a Cycle Heritage Tour themed ‘Disaster and Conflict-Resilient Heritage.’ Organized by Bhavnagar Heritage and INTACH Bhavnagar in collaboration with Bhavnagar Cycle Club, over 60 participants cycled past key landmarks, with INTACH volunteers providing talks on the monuments’



Presenting Certificates to the winners of Heritage Quiz Competition – Gaurela Pendra Marwahi Chapter



Ply split braiding workshop – Bhavnagar Chapter



A Ride for Resilience: World Heritage Day – Bhavnagar Chapter



Khel Utsav: Heritage Games – Bhavnagar Chapter



World Heritage Day celebrations with 'Dharohar: Mari Matina Sangit ni Sugandh' – Bhavnagar Chapter

historical significance and the importance of community-led heritage protection. The ride was flagged off from Nilambag Palace by Yuvraj Jaiveeraj Singh Gohil and Kunvari Saheb Brijeshwari Kumari Gohil.

On 19–20 April, Bhavnagar Heritage and INTACH Bhavnagar, in collaboration with Kshitij Art Classes, hosted a two-day Linocut Printmaking Workshop at Nilambag Palace. Led by artist Ajay Chauhan, participants explored carving and printing designs inspired by local heritage motifs. The hands-on workshop linked artistic creation with heritage preservation, highlighting that safeguarding cultural legacy involves both protecting physical structures and fostering creativity and shared artistic experience.

Bhavnagar concluded its World Heritage Day celebrations with 'Dharohar: Mari Matina Sangit ni Sugandh,' a Music and Heritage Evening at Nilambag Palace, organized by INTACH Bhavnagar and Bhavnagar Heritage. Over 2,000 attendees enjoyed the live launch of the original composition 'Kan Kunwar Nu Bhavenu' and an electrifying performance by the Bhavnagar-born Algari Band—Atharva Joshi, Vatsal Joshi, and Jay Dhapa—who infused traditional compositions with a modern edge on 18 April.

The Chapter embraced wellness and heritage by hosting a women's yoga session on the Nilambag Palace Lawns for International Yoga Day, celebrating the theme 'Yoga for One Earth, One Health'. Organized by Bhavnagar Heritage, INTACH Bhavnagar, Nilambag Palace, and wellness partners including Purvi's Yoga Therapy, participants engaged in breathwork and gentle movement guided by a certified yoga trainer and GarbhSanskar coach on 21 June, highlighting the connection between self-care and global well-being.

The Chapter marked Book Lovers Day with a special event at Barton Library, inviting students from Kumarshala, Shree Nandkuvarba, Mahdi School, Amarjyoti Saraswati School, and Silver Bells to celebrate the joy of reading. Held on 2 August, the event encouraged attendees to share favorite books and their personal

significance, creating a lively literary exchange and fostering a vibrant reading culture.

Bhavnagar Heritage, INTACH Bhavnagar, and Kshitij Foundation hosted a Raksha Bandhan-themed Resin Rakhi Craft Workshop at Nilambag Palace on 3 August. The INTACH National Heritage and Education Quiz 2025 brought school teams together at Nilambag Palace, where students engaged with India's rich heritage. Team Amarjyoti Saraswati International School emerged as the city winner, qualifying for the state-level round. A two-day Ply-Split Braiding Workshop was held at Nilambag Palace on 27–28 September, led by renowned textile designer and retired NID faculty member Professor Errol Pires. The workshop introduced children to hands-on braiding techniques on the first day, while adults and artisans explored advanced applications for jewellery and garments on the second, reviving this traditional craft used historically for camel belts in Rajasthan and Gujarat.

On 9 November, the Chapter hosted a morning Heronry Walk led by Dr. Indra Gadhvi, Professor of Marine Biology and Honorary Wildlife Warden. Participants explored the local heronry, learning about the nesting habits, seasonal patterns, and ecological significance of the wetland birds. Dr. Gadhvi shared his extensive knowledge of Gujarat's aquatic avifauna, connecting the region's biodiversity with its cultural and ecological heritage, offering an educational and reflective experience for all attendees.

Haryana

✓ AMBALA

The Chapter, under HECS, conducted a National Heritage Quiz on 23 July at B D Sr. Sec. School, Ambala Cantt., with 96 students from 24 schools. The event was graced by Lt Gen Ram Pratap (Retd) and other dignitaries. The quiz began with a written round in Hindi and English, selecting four teams for the oral round, conducted by Mrs Madhu Singh. Army



Handing over prize to winners of National Heritage Quiz – Ambala Chapter



A group photo of National Heritage Quiz – Ambala Chapter

Public School, Ambala Cantt. won first place. Prizes were awarded, active heritage clubs recognized, and a session on “Power of Positivity” conducted. The event concluded with a memorable, educational experience for all participants.

The Chapter held its members’ meeting on 23 July alongside the National Heritage Quiz. Attendees included key members and the Convenor, Colonel R D Singh. The meeting began with a tribute to late ex-Convenor Brig GS Lamba, followed by updates on the Chapter’s achievements, including the 7th consecutive Best Chapter Award and Young INTACH activities. Upcoming events like a Film Workshop and endangered art workshop were discussed, and an Executive Committee was formed. Audited accounts for FY 2024–25 were shared, members appreciated the Chapter’s work, and the meeting concluded with a call to promote INTACH and recruit more members.



Young INTACH contest winners – Ambala Chapter

Colonel R D Singh, Convenor of INTACH Ambala Chapter, was awarded the *Veteran Achievers Award* by Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi on 3 November at Ambala, recognizing his outstanding contributions to nation-building, social service, and youth mentorship. Under his leadership, INTACH Ambala has won the Best Chapter Award for seven consecutive years. A dedicated mentor and humanitarian, he also actively supports needy children, promotes healthy living among youth, and is a committed blood donor, having donated 102 times.



Ambala Convenor, an Army Veteran, awarded by the Army Chief – Ambala Chapter



National Heritage Quiz – Faridabad Chapter



Group photo of the participants in the Quiz competition – Kangra Chapter



Members Kangra Chapter honoured the CMO, Zonal Hospital – Kangra Chapter

▼ FARIDABAD

Young INTACH welcomed a new school member, Waso School, Sector 17, Faridabad, during an on-the-spot heritage painting contest. Thirty students from classes 6–8 were enrolled as Young INTACH members with badges and passports, and the top five performers received INTACH trophies for their paintings. Faridabad also hosted the National Heritage Quiz in two stages: a written test at KL Mehta Dayanand Women College, where 126 students (63 teams) from 15 CBSE schools competed and the top seven teams advanced to the final round. The final quiz was won by KL Mehta Dayanand School, Sec 16, Faridabad, which later secured second place in the Haryana state round, narrowly losing by two points.

Himachal Pradesh

▼ DHARAMSHALA

An art workshop on Kangra miniature painting was held at the Achievers' Hub Senior Secondary School, Dari Dharamshala, bringing together around 50 students from various local schools. The workshop, led by master craftsmen Sh. Mukesh Kumar and Sh. Manu Sharma, offered hands-on training in this endangered art form, helping students appreciate its intricacy and cultural significance. The event was graced by Divisional Commissioner Sh. Vinod Kumar, IAS as Chief Guest, while Dr. Narendra Awasthi, Chapter Convenor, highlighted INTACH's mission and activities. The workshop concluded with an interactive session, leaving students inspired to preserve and promote indigenous arts.

The Chapter organized the National Heritage Quiz 2025 to promote awareness of India's cultural and natural heritage among students. Fifty participants from six schools took part, demonstrating their knowledge and enthusiasm. Ms. Angana Pathania and Mr. Shaurya Kumar of Achievers' Hub Sr. Sec. School, Dari, secured first place and will represent the Dharamshala Chapter at the State-Level Heritage Quiz.

Dr. Narendra Awasthi, Convenor, INTACH Dharamshala Chapter, honored the Chief Guest, Ms. Shilpi Bekta, ADM Kangra, who distributed certificates to winners and participants and appreciated INTACH's efforts in fostering heritage awareness.

▼ KANGRA

The Chapter, in collaboration with Sangeetanjali Kala Kendra Society, organized the *Kala Guru Samaan Samaroh* and *Pustak Lokarpan Samaroh* at Radio Gunjan, Dharamshala, with Divisional Commissioner Kangra, Sh. Vinod Kumar, as Chief Guest and Sh. K.C. Sharma, former Election Commissioner of Himachal Pradesh, presiding.

Convenor L.N. Aggarwal paid tribute to Kargil War heroes on Vijay Diwas, 26 July, at the War Memorial, Dharamshala. The Chapter also celebrated Independence Day as part of *Azadi ka Mahotsav* on 15 August and honored the new Chief Medical Officer of Zonal Hospital Dharamshala in September 2025.

Members participated in the *Swasth Nari Shashakt Parivar Abhijan* organized by the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP), with dignitaries

including CMO Dr. Vivek Karol, Convener L.N. Aggarwal, Spokesperson of the Tibet Govt. in Exile Mr. Tenzin, MOH-cum-DTO Dr. Rajesh Sood, Superintendent of Police Vikas Bhatnagar, and Co-Convenor Rishi Walia. The event concluded with a tour of the district jail, paying tribute to revolutionary leader Lala Lajpat Rai.

The Kangra Chapter supported a health check-up camp at Karmapa Monastery, organized by the Health Department, Zonal Hospital, with Rajya Sabha Member Indu Goswami as Chief Guest, MLA Sh. Sudhir Sharma as Guest of Honour, and Convenor L.N. Aggarwal as Special Guest.

The National Heritage Quiz 2025 was held at Montessorie Cambridge School, Raja-ka-Bagh, Nurpur, with 90 students from nine schools participating. The host school team secured first place in the city round and will represent the city in the State Round at Mandi on 10 November.

▼ MANDI

The Chapter organized a heritage walk for postgraduate History students from Sardar Patel University, with whom an MOU has been signed for collaborative programs. The students explored Barsela, memorial stones of deceased Mandi kings and their queens who performed Sati, dating back to 1650. Maintained by the ASI, these stones feature images of royalty and a few concubines, with inscriptions in the local Tankri script.

▼ SHIMLA

From 5 October, doctoral students of the Delhi School of Planning and Architecture spent a week studying sections of the



A study tour of doctoral students to the UNESCO site 'Kalka-Shimla Railway' – Shimla Chapter

Kalka-Shimla Railway, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The State Co-convenor of HP and Convener of Shimla, who had accompanied the UNESCO team during the railway's 2008 inscription, interacted with the students, sharing insights on the history, design, and significance of this iconic railway line.

Jammu & Kashmir

✓ JAMMU

As part of Van Mahotsav, the Chapter, the University of Jammu, and the Panch Parivartan NGO organized a plantation drive at Shaheed Bhagat Singh Boys Hostel under the *Clean Jammu Green Jammu* campaign, coordinated by Dr. Rajesh Sharma, Warden and Assistant Professor. The Chief guest, Dr. S.P. Vaid (IPS Retd.), former DGP J&K, planted a Ginkgo biloba sapling, while other saplings included Sita Ashok, Tecoma, Panjtara, Chinese Rose, Mango, Chinar, Silver Oak, and Temple Tree. Prof. Lalit Sen welcomed participants, and speakers including Sh. O.P. Sharma (IFS Retd.), Prof. Anil Raina, Mrs. Bharti Vaid (IIS Retd.), and Sh. S.M. Sahni (JKAS Retd.) and highlighted environmental conservation, the cultural value of trees and afforestation.

Maj Gen (Retd) G.S. Jamwal, AVSM, a 97-year-old veteran of the Indian Army, was ceremoniously inducted as a Life Member of INTACH Jammu Chapter, recognizing his decades-long commitment to heritage conservation, particularly military heritage in Jammu Cantt. The induction ceremony included the formal presentation of the Life Membership letter and pin by Ms. Resham Kashyap, Life Member, along with Core



Induction Ceremony: Life Member Maj Gen (Retd) G.S. Jamwal, AVSM, a 97-year-old stalwart and veteran General of Indian Army – Jammu Chapter



Mrs and Dr SP Vaid planting the saplings of Ginkgo biloba, the famous living fossil – Jammu Chapter

Group members S.M. Sahni (Convener), Kuldeep Wahi (Co-Convener), Kripal Singh, Ajay Gandotra, Rashim Kashyap, and Rakesh Singh (Volunteer). Gen Jamwal, associated with INTACH since its inception and active in the Jammu Chapter since 1990–91, has been a key advisor in preserving military heritage. The occasion also saw Shri Kripal Singh honoured with an INTACH pin by Gen Jamwal and Core

Group members for his work organizing heritage walks of the Royal Dogra Palace Complex, Mubarak Mandi, and other heritage sites in Jammu, underscoring INTACH Jammu Chapter's dedication to recognizing individuals who contribute to heritage preservation.

International Delhi Public School, Ghou Manhasan, inaugurated its INTACH



Plantation Drive – Jammu Chapter



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



Participation in the seminar – Kashmir Chapter

Heritage Club – Aarambh, marking a vibrant step towards preserving and celebrating cultural heritage. The ceremony began with lamp lighting, Saraswati Vandana, and a cultural programme featuring soulful Dogri songs and folk dances by students. The celebration continued with a Plantation Drive under environmentalist Mr. O.P. Vidhyarthi, during which students planted and adopted 50 saplings, learning the importance of environmental stewardship.

Students of AARAMBH – The INTACH Heritage Club of IDPS Ghoumanhasan celebrated Raksha Bandhan with soldiers at the Suchetgarh International Border, Jammu, in a heartfelt gesture of gratitude and respect. Girl students tied handcrafted rakhis to the soldiers, symbolizing love and protection, while boys presented tokens of appreciation for their courage and selfless service.

✓ KASHMIR

On 14 June, the Chapter, in collaboration with the Amar Singh Club, Srinagar, organized a seminar on *Enduring Appeal of Traditional Architecture: Lessons for Modern Construction*, bringing together architects, conservationists, and urban planners to explore how Kashmiri heritage can guide sustainable modern design. The event opened with remarks by Mr. M. Saleem Beg, Convenor, INTACH J&K, followed by a keynote from Mr. Qazi Qamar, Head of Architecture at IUST. Speakers including Mr. Iftikhar Hakim, Chief Guest Mr. Nasir Aslam Wani, and Mr. Ahsan Pardesi highlighted cultural, ecological, and community aspects of heritage

conservation. The technical session featured presentations by Ms. Saima Iqbal, Mr. Mehran Qureshi, Mr. Umar Farooq, Ms. Zoya Khan, Ms. Asma Nisar Bhat, and Dr. Hakim Sameer Hamdani on traditional materials, design logic, adaptive reuse, and reinterpretation of Kashmiri aesthetics.

✓ UDHAMPUR (SUBCHAPTER-JAMMU)

The Chapter, in collaboration with the Department of History and Heritage Club, GCW Udhampur, and GDC Boys Udhampur & GDC Ramnagar, organized an Orientation Programme on Cultural Resource Mapping to launch a 15-day summer internship under NEP-2020. The event began with a plantation drive for Van Mahotsav, lighting of the ceremonial lamp, and Saraswati Vandana. Chief Guest Shri O.P. Sharma IFS (Retd) and Guest of Honour Dr. C.M. Seth IFS (Retd) addressed

students on local flora, fauna, and heritage conservation. Other speakers included Prof. Sudhir Singh, Sh. Anil Paba, Sh. Ashok Sharma, and Sh. Kirpal Singh (Life Member INTACH), highlighting local language, built heritage, cuisine, and arts and crafts. Dr. Pankaj Sarswat (GDC Ramnagar) briefed students on the NEP-2020 internship framework. Coordinated by Prof. Yash Paul, HOD History, the programme saw participation from 105 students, 80 staff, and 15 INTACH members, and featured a local crafts exhibition, fostering awareness of Udhampur's rich cultural heritage.



Cultural Resource Mapping of Udhampur Municipal limits, Ramnagar Municipal limits – Udhampur Chapter



Heritage Drawing competition – Bagalkot Chapter



Heritage Quiz on 25 August 2025 – Belagavi Chapter

Jharkhand

✓ RAMGARH (SUB CHAPTER)

Under the joint auspices of INTACH Ramgarh Sub-Chapter and Zarina Khatoon Museum, Chitarpur, the “Heritage Quiz Contest 2025” was organized to raise awareness amongst youth about India’s cultural and historical heritage. The quiz featured 32 students from Apex Public School, Mecos Public School, Girls Urdu High School, and Darshah Islami School, Chitarpur. Diksha Mishra and Suryanshi Kumari of Apex Public School secured first place, while Arjiya Suhana and Haniya Hussain of Girls Urdu High School came second.

The event began with a welcome address by Mr. Faiyaz Ahmad, Convenor, INTACH Ramgarh Sub-Chapter, and an introduction to INTACH by Mohammad Shad. Questions covered Indian architecture, archaeology, folk art, and historical monuments. Museum Director Mr. Faiyaz Ahmad highlighted the competition’s role in connecting students to their roots.

Karnataka

✓ BAGALKOT

The Chapter organized a Heritage Drawing Competition for 8th and 9th standard students at SVP Sanstha’s Basavmantap, Badami, with around 65 participants. Miss Mala (SVPHS Katapur-Pattadkal) won 1st prize, Manjunath (SVPHS Badami) 2nd,



A group photo of participants for heritage walk: Members of INATCH Belagavi with Dy. Commissioner Mr. Mohd. Roshan and Abhinav Jain-IAS – Belagavi Chapter

and Ningamma (SVPHS Katapur-Pattadkal) 3rd. Renowned Badami artist Shri Dajiba Jagdale served as the judge. The event was attended by Convenor Dr. Arun T. Miskin, Co-convenor Advocate M.S. Hiremath, INTACH members, school teachers, families, and Superintendent Archeologist Shri Ramesh Mulimani, who was the Guest of Honour.

✓ BELAGAVI

The Chapter conducted the Heritage Quiz 2025 at Bharatesh Education Trust Campus on 25 August, with 70 students from six schools participating. After the written round, four teams advanced to the finals, where Quizmaster Swatee Jog led a fun audio-visual round. Prasanna Allayyanavarmath and Yash Dharmoiji of Bharatesh English Medium School won first place.

The Chapter organized a Heritage Walk on 5 September, graced by Shri Mohammad Roshan, Deputy Commissioner of Belagavi,

and Shri Abhinav Jain, IAS. Led by Convenor Shri Vinod Doddanavar and co-convenors Mrs. Swatee Jog and Shri Kishor Kakade, the walk explored Belagavi Fort, Kamal Basadi Jain temple, Ramkrishna Mission Ashram, Durga Devi Mandir, Open Air Museum, and colonial-era sites in the cantonment.

Shri Roshan appreciated INTACH’s conservation efforts, emphasizing the need to preserve Belagavi’s diverse heritage. The walk concluded with an interactive session discussing sustainable heritage preservation. INTACH Belagavi Chapter, established in 2016, continues to promote awareness and conservation through walks, competitions, and educational programs.

✓ MANGALORE

The Chapter, in collaboration with Art Kanara Trust, inaugurated a week-long retrospective exhibition, “Mangalore, Back Then...Through the Eyes of Yajna”, on 19 July at Kodialguthu Centre for Art and



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



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



Ferndale – Kankanady – Mangaluru Chapter



Woodlands Bungalow – Mangaluru Chapter

Culture. The exhibition showcases veteran photo journalist Yajneshwara Acharya's evocative black-and-white images capturing Mangalore's urban and rural life from the 1970s to 2000s. Chief guest V. U. George, Editor and Publisher, Mangalore Today, praised Yajna's rare gift for bringing still frames to life. Subhas Chandra Basu, Convener, INTACH Mangaluru Chapter, highlighted the project's aim to preserve Tulunadu's visual heritage. The exhibition also features recent photographs by Yajna revisiting past locations, alongside young photographers documenting the experience.

The Chapter, in association with HECS-INTACH and the INTACH Heritage Club of Government High School, Manchi-Kolnadu, conducted a one-day traditional basket-weaving workshop for rural school children on 23 August. Resource persons Shankar Koraga Gutthakadu and Supriya led hands-on training for 67 students from seven schools in the Manchi cluster.

Convenor, Subhash Chandra Basu, stressed the need to preserve traditional arts and support grassroots artisans. Chief guest, Mrs. Devaki H., retired headmistress of Manchi-Kolnadu High School, highlighted the value of skill-based training for rural children. School Betterment Committee President, Shivashankar Rao Manchi, emphasized the role of such activities in fostering creativity and overall development.

The event was attended by Alumni Association President, Ramaprasad Rai

Tiruvashe, INTACH coordinators Rajendra Kedige, Harish Kodialbail, Reshma Shetty, and Sharvani Bhat, along with faculty members. Artist and Heritage Club Coordinator Taranath Kairangala conducted the program, and Headmistress Mrs. Sushila proposed the vote of thanks.

The workshop aimed to familiarize students with the traditional craft of basket weaving and encourage the preservation of indigenous skills. Participating schools included Government High School, Manchi-Kolnadu, and six neighboring primary schools.

The Chapter will present a photographic exhibition, *Album of the Porches*, documenting traditional Mangalorean Catholic heritage houses. It will be inaugurated on 4 October at Kodialguthu Centre for Art and Culture, Ballalbagh, in the presence of Ronald Gomes, President of the Catholic Association of South Kanara (CASK).

The exhibition records 27 houses, highlighting their blend of European and local architecture, family altars, verandas, and Mangalore tile roofs. Led by Subhas Basu, Architect and Convenor of INTACH Mangaluru Chapter, the project involved photographer Murali Abbemane, researcher Sharvani Bhat, and contributions from Harriet Vidyasagar, Dr. Michael Lobo, Nayana Fernandes, and Vincent D'Souza.

Notable homes include Ferndale (Dr. Lawrence Fernandes), Nandigudda House (Dr. Derek and Ms. Patsy Lobo),



Talk on Wildlife Conservation by Praveen Bhargav – Mangaluru Chapter

and Camelot (Dr. Michael Lobo). An accompanying album-book will preserve the legacy of these heritage houses amid rapid urban changes.

The Chapter hosted a talk on “Wildlife Conservation in a Human Dominated Landscape” by wildlife conservationist Praveen Bhargav on 15 October, at Kodialguthu Centre for Art and Culture, Ballalbagh. Bhargav, Managing Trustee of Wildlife First and former member of the National Board of Wildlife, highlighted India’s current wildlife status, threats from habitat fragmentation, and the need for balanced conservation strategies. He also addressed the illegal wildlife trade and stressed integrated approaches for protecting natural resources, including rivers. The programme was coordinated by Niren Jain, Co-convenor of INTACH Mangaluru Chapter, and concluded with remarks by Convenor Subhas Basu.

Kerala

✓ KASARGOD

World Environment Day was celebrated at Ezhimala Naval Academy with the planting of 1,000 mangrove saplings along the riverbank. The initiative, led by Commodore Sreekumaran Pillai in association with INTACH Kasargod Chapter, promoted environmental conservation among naval officers and cadets.

At AUP School, Udinur Central, World Environment Day was marked by a programme themed “Environmental Conservation – Our Responsibility,” inaugurated by Dr. V. Jayarajan, Chairman of Folkland and General Secretary of ICCN, in collaboration with INTACH Kasargod Chapter.

Varnamrittika, a mural painting exhibition celebrating Kerala’s mural art tradition, was organized on 16 June, by Folkland with support from INTACH Kasargod Chapter, the Department of Handicrafts, Ministry of Textiles, and CSR partners Dorf Ketal and ICCN. The exhibition featured artworks by 21 trainees of the Samarth Scheme and was inaugurated by Smt. K.V. Lalitha,

Chairperson of Payyanur Municipality, with Padma Shri Narayanan Peruvannan as the guest of honour.

Folkland, in collaboration with Rag Virag Education and Culture Society and INTACH Kasargod Chapter, conducted a 10-day Kathak dance workshop from 21-30 June, at Rag Virag Studio, Paschim Vihar, led by renowned exponent Smt. Punita Sharma. Forty-five learners participated, concluding with a public performance showcasing Kathak.

INTACH Kasargod Chapter conducted a Kathakali demonstration at C.K.N.S. GHSS, Pilicode, on 23 June led by Kalmandalam Narayanan Namboothiri and inaugurated by Headmistress Smt. Latha, engaging over 120 students. A similar demonstration was held at GHSS Hosdurg on 10 September, also led by Kalmandalam Narayanan Namboothiri, fostering appreciation for Kerala’s classical art and cultural heritage.

INTACH Kasargod Chapter organized a series of heritage quiz competitions in three schools during September 2025 to promote cultural literacy among students. At GHSS Kanhangad South on 12 August, 22 students participated, with the event introduced by folk dancer and conservation specialist Ms. Rajitha Rajan and welcomed by teacher Sri Sreedev M.V. At Hosdurg

on 10 September, 20 students competed in a spirited contest that deepened their understanding of India’s heritage. The final quiz at Rajas Higher Secondary School, Nileshwaram, on 22 September, saw 92 students take part. The quiz, conducted by Ms. Rajitha V.M. and Mr. Vyshak K., was praised by the school Principal for fostering intellectual engagement and encouraging learning beyond textbooks.

Nadanpattu Performance Celebrates World Folklore Day: On 22 August, 2025, Folkland, in association with INTACH Kasargod Chapter and CSR support from Dorf Ketal Chemicals India, celebrated World Folklore Day at Payyanur College and Sir Syed College, Taliparamba. The events featured a soulful Nadanpattu performance of Kerala folk songs by Janardhanan Pudusseri, engaging students in music and dance, coordinated by Dr. Anila Sunil, Rajitha Rajan, and K. Sureshan.

✓ PALAKKAD

The chapter celebrated its 10th anniversary with a workshop titled *Living Legacies, Thriving Futures* to review achievements – and plan future priorities. Chapter Convener Arun Narayan opened the event with an overview of the past decade. A panel discussion, moderated by senior member Subhash, featured EP



MELA PADAM – Arangettam of Pancharimelam Students – Kasargod Chapter



World Environment Celebration at Ezhimala Naval Academy – Kasargod Chapter



Living Legacies, Thriving Futures: A Workshop for Palakkad Heritage – Palakkad Chapter

Unny, political cartoonist and writer; Dr. Vellinezhi Achuthankutty, performance arts scholar; and Dr. Viswanath, CEO of Athachi Group. The experts shared perspectives on heritage conservation, cultural evolution, and industry engagement. Insights from the discussions will be incorporated into the chapter's upcoming annual work plan.

✓ THRISSUR

On 14 October, the Chapter organized a visit to the Manuscript Section at Sree Shankara Hall, Brahmaswom Madhom, where experts demonstrated the process of manuscript documentation and preservation. Ms. Vijaya, Director – Architectural Heritage Division, INTACH, handed over reprinted copies of the Brahmaswom Madhom book

to Adv. Parameshwaran Namboothiri, President, Brahmaswom Madhom. The visit was followed by an interactive session, "Connect and Collaborate," at Hotel Moti Mahal, where INTACH members discussed conservation and renovation initiatives with officials from the Architectural Heritage Division.

On 30 October, a Kuruthola Craft Workshop was conducted at Kulapathi Munshi Bhavan's Vidyamandir, Pottore, led by artist Navneeth Chero. Around 30–35 students learned to create items such as fish, snakes, and olapeepi (leaf whistles) using tender coconut leaves. INTACH participants included Convenor Vinod Kumar M.M., members Sujith and Krishna, and volunteer Punnya. School representatives, Principal



Students at the Kuruthola Craft Workshop – Thrissur Chapter

Dr. Bindu and Teacher Jaimol, appreciated the hands-on exposure to India's living heritage. The workshop successfully combined art, culture, and sustainability, fostering appreciation for traditional crafts.

Madhya Pradesh

✓ BURHANPUR

On 6 August, the Chapter organized a Heritage Quiz at RSET Institution, Burhanpur, for 88 rural students enrolled in government-supported self-employment programs. The event was presided over by Mr. Naresh Sendre, with Mr. Vijay Rathore as Chief Guest and Mr. Suresh Chaudhary as Special Guest. First prize was awarded to Deepali Kushwaha and Anita Gadarian, and second prize to Kavita Chauhan and her partner from Loni village. Certificates were given to all participants. Guests encouraged students by highlighting the achievements of leaders from rural backgrounds, and INTACH Coordinator Mr. Hoshang Havaldar presented on the importance of preserving India's cultural and historical heritage.

On 2 October, INTACH colleagues gathered at Shahi Qila to pay tribute to Mahatma Gandhi. Since Satiara Ghat, the site of his ashes, was affected by mud and water, the event was held at Shahi Qila, followed by a cleanliness drive in collaboration with the Archaeological Survey of India and India Tourism officials, including Assistant Director, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, Indore. Respectful tributes were also offered to former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri. The event was supported by ASI colleagues, India Tourism officials, Mr. Gopal, Mr. Jai Tiwari, and local residents, who contributed to the success of the tribute and cleanliness drive.

✓ CHANDER

The inaugural meeting of the Chapter was held under the chief patronage of Shri Neelkamal Maheshwari, INTACH Governing Council Member, and chaired by senior member Shri Umesh Purohit. Shri Arun Somani was appointed Convenor, with Muzaffar Ansari Kalle Bhai as Co-



Chapter Meeting – Chanderi Chapter



Students at National Heritage Quiz Competition – Datia Chapter

Convenor. Shri. Maheshwari highlighted INTACH's origins and mission, noting its establishment in 1984 to preserve India's cultural and historical heritage.

Shri Umesh Purohit offered guidance on heritage preservation, while the Convenor emphasized protecting Chanderi's archaeological heritage, promoting tourism, supporting local industries, and celebrating traditional festivals. Co-Convenor Muzaffar Ansari proposed raising awareness among school students.

▼ DATIA

The Chapter organized the National Heritage Quiz and Dr. Madhu Srivastava Memorial Painting Competition at Saraswati Vidya Mandir, Bundela Nagar. The Saraswati Vidya Mandir team won the quiz and will represent Datia at the state level, while Government Girls School Holipura secured second place. The third place went to Sant Ravi Shankar High School and Government Secondary School No. 2.

In the painting competition, Raja Kaithale won first place, Tamanna Ahirwar second and Unnati Pal third. In the junior category, Nancy Kushwaha stood first, Neha Prajapati second, Tanya Ujjainiya and Arya Rawat third, and Prachi Kushwaha received a consolation prize.

The program was inaugurated by District Sports Officer Dr. Arvind Singh Rana and Principal Kapil Tambe. Guests were welcomed by Uma Charan Sharma, Ram Shri Mishra, Sanjay Rawat, and INTACH members. Quiz Masters Rishiraj Mishra and Dharmendra Agarwal oversaw the quiz,

while painting judges Amar Soni, Santosh Kumar, Rashmi Katare, Dr. Astha Bhardwaj, and Stuti Chauda reviewed entries from around 100 students.

Dr. Arvind Singh Rana highlighted how such quizzes enhance intellectual development, while painting competitions foster creativity. Principal Kapil Tambe praised the initiatives for their educational value, and coordinator Uma Charan Sharma extended thanks to all participants and contributors.

▼ DHAR

INTACH organized a city-level Heritage Quiz at Utkrisht Vidyalaya, with 75 students from five schools (grades 7-10) participating. Teams competed in rounds focused on heritage, culture, and arts.

The quiz was conducted by Shyam Sharma and coordinated by Mrs. Rani Thakur, with timers assisting in the event. Dr. Deependra Sharma, INTACH Governing Council member and Dhar Chapter Convenor, praised the students and highlighted that the quiz promotes heritage awareness alongside education. INTACH Life Member Harihar Dutt Shukla and Dr. Sadhana Chauhan were also present. After the quiz, participants took a heritage walk to Vikram Gyan Mandir (built 1945) and statues of Rana Bakhtawar Singh and Rabindranath Tagore.

▼ GWALIOR

The Chapter, with the Gwalior Photography Club, organized a two-day exhibition on 18-19 August on 'Historic Monuments of Madhya Pradesh: Our Living Heritage.'



Students participation in the Photography Exhibition – Gwalior Chapter

Inaugurated by Shri Nitin Katare, Regional Manager, Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board, and attended by Chapter members and Governing Council Members Shri Neelkamal Maheshwari and Shri Rajiv Tomar, the event attracted students, schools, and photography enthusiasts.

Students from six schools engaged with senior photographers who shared insights on photography. Chapter Convenor Shri Vikas Singh highlighted the Chapter's vision, Heritage Walks, and the importance of Heritage Clubs in schools. The exhibition concluded with participation from Gwalior Photography Club members. Shri Vikas Singh thanked INTACH Chairman Shri Ashok Singh Thakur for support. The event successfully promoted heritage awareness and inspired appreciation for Madhya Pradesh's historic monuments.

Shri Vikas Singh, Convenor, introduced the art form, highlighting its historical and cultural significance. The event was attended by INTACH Governing Council Members Shri Neelkamal Maheshwari, Shri Rajiv Tomar, Co-convenor Shri Chandradeep Singh, and School Director Shri Rohit Saxena, who received a memento. The workshop successfully



engaged students with India's artistic heritage and reinforced INTACH's commitment to cultural preservation.

The Chapter organized the City Round of the National Heritage Quiz on 6 September 2025 at Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya, with 188 students from 11 schools participating. The competition began with a written preliminary round, from which five teams advanced to the on-stage finale featuring rounds on India's tangible and intangible heritage, architecture, traditions, notable personalities, and the heritage of Madhya Pradesh and Gwalior. The winning team was selected to represent Gwalior in the State Round. The event was attended by Shri Vikas Singh, Convenor, INTACH Gwalior Chapter, co-convenors Shri Chandradeep Singh, and other chapter members. Winners received trophies, certificates, and books. The quiz successfully promoted awareness of India's cultural heritage and encouraged students to take an active interest in its preservation.

The Chapter organized a one-day workshop on the endangered Chitera Painting at Simpkins Public School, Gwalior, to promote awareness and preserve this unique folk art of the Chitera community. A total of 89 students from seven schools participated. The session began with an introduction by Shri Vikas Singh, Convenor, INTACH Gwalior Chapter, on the historical and cultural significance

of Chitera art. Traditional artisan Shri Hari demonstrated the preparation of natural colors and taught students the traditional techniques. INTACH Governing Council Members Shri Neelkamal Maheshwari, Shri Rajeev Tomar, and Co-Convenor Shri Chandradeep Singh, along with School Director Shri Rohit Saxena, attended the event, which provided all workshop materials, receiving an enthusiastic response and reflecting INTACH's commitment to heritage education.

The Madhya Pradesh State Round of the INTACH National Heritage Quiz 2025 was held on 25 October at Gwalior Glory High School, Gwalior, with three teams—Gwalior, Datia, and Mandla—competing in the final round. The quiz featured five thematic rounds on Personalities, Monuments, Intangible Heritage, Natural Heritage, and Mythology & Epics. The Mandla team from Nirmala Senior Secondary School, Lalitpur emerged as State Winners, with Datia as First Runner-up and Gwalior as Second Runner-up. The event was attended by INTACH Governing Council Members Shri Neelkamal Maheshwari and Shri Rajiv Tomar, along with convenors and co-convenors from the participating chapters and school dignitaries. The Gwalior Chapter provided full hospitality for teams, and winners and participants received trophies, INTACH publications, and other educational materials.

✓ KHAJURAHO

The Chapter successfully held the National Heritage Quiz at Sacred Heart Convent High School with over 65 students from three schools participating. Winners from Sacred Heart Convent advanced to the Gwalior round, with a chance to compete nationally in Delhi. The event, supported by Convenor Ajay Kashyap, Patron Dr. Murad Ali, and Governing Council Member Neelkamal Maheshwari, also thanked Principal Sister Selvi for her support. The day before, the chapter held a meeting to discuss heritage preservation, form an Executive Committee, and assign responsibilities, emphasizing collective efforts to safeguard local cultural sites.

✓ MANDLA

The Chapter organized a two-day teacher training program at DIET, attended by 50 teachers from government and private schools, to promote awareness and preservation of India's heritage. Shri Deepak Khandekar, former Secretary for Tribal Development and State Convener INTACH, highlighted the moral responsibility of educating students about national heritage, while Retd. Brigadier Vipin Trivedi encouraged teachers to promote Indian culture and art in schools. INTACH Master Trainers explained Heritage Clubs, methods to identify and conserve local heritage, and ways



Students at a 1-day workshop on endangered art Chitera Painting – Gwalior Chapter



Participants at the Teacher Training Programme – Mandla Chapter



Guests and resource persons at the Teacher Training Programme – Mandla Chapter



Vidisha INTACH Chapter Inauguration – Vidisha Chapter



Members at the Chapter's inauguration – Vidisha Chapter

to raise community awareness. On the second day, teachers visited Ramnagar Fort for practical study and discussion. The program was organized under the guidance of Collector Mandla Shri Somesh Mishra and CEO District Panchayat Shri Shreyansh Kumth, with support from the District Education Officer and the Assistant Tribal Development Board, and included contributions from INTACH convenors, principals, and other officials. School kits were distributed to all participants.

✓ VIDISHA

The Vidisha Chapter of INTACH was inaugurated on 26 October at SSL Jain Higher Secondary School, with State Convener Deepak Khandekar, Convener Sanjay Malhotra, local officials, archaeologists, and chapter members in attendance. Arvind Srivastava was appointed District Convener and Rishi Jalori as Co-Convener. In memory of Shrimant Seth Rajendra Jain, his family donated Rs. 51,000 to Apna Ghar Ashram and Rs. 31,000 to Pratibha Vikas Sansthan. Deepak Khandekar stressed the importance of preserving Vidisha's archaeological heritage, while Sanjay Malhotra read a congratulatory message from INTACH Chairman Shri Ashok Singh Thakur. The program began with a lamp-lighting

ceremony before Goddess Saraswati's portrait, followed by guest introductions, a welcome address, and discussions on the chapter's role in heritage conservation.

Maharashtra

✓ GREATER MUMBAI

INTACH Mumbai hosted 'CONTINUUM: INTACH's Commitment to the Future of the Past' from 5-9 August at Kamalnayan Bajaj Hall, Nariman Point, marking 40 years of INTACH and 100 years of Mumbai's Art Deco heritage. The exhibition was inaugurated by Shri Amitabh Singh (CPMG, Maharashtra Circle) and INTACH Chairman, Shri Ashok Singh Thakur. Founder members Mrs. Asha Sheth, Dr. Saryu Doshi, and Dr. Pheroza Godrej attended, with Mrs. Sheth and Dr. Doshi felicitated for their contributions.

The exhibition highlighted INTACH's divisions, Mumbai's Art Deco legacy, and



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

featured displays designed by IES College of Architecture students. Talks, panel discussions, workshops, and storytelling sessions complemented the event, bridging heritage with community engagement.

In June, INTACH partnered with Prime Securities to host "Sultana," written and directed by Rama Pandey, celebrating India's Natya Shastra tradition.

Bimonthly heritage walks continued to attract participants, exploring sites including Juma Masjid, St. Thomas Cathedral, Alpaiwala Museum, Art Deco Marine Drive, Kumbharwada, Bhuleshwar Market, and Ganeshotsav traditions.

These initiatives underscore INTACH Mumbai's ongoing commitment to fostering heritage awareness and stewardship.

✓ NAGPUR

On 7 August, the Chapter, in collaboration with SMMCA, organized a site visit for B.Arch. VII semester students to the heritage-listed Directorate of Accounts (Postal) building. Mentored by Dr. Madhura Rathod, students studied the building's history, architecture, and materials, discussing conservation needs and adaptive reuse possibilities. The visit emphasized heritage value assessment, preservation challenges, and context-sensitive approaches, providing practical experience that strengthened students' analytical, observational, and documentation skills.



A group photo of participants during a site visit to Directorate of Accounts (Postal) – Nagpur Chapter



A site visit to an Old High Court site – Nagpur Chapter



A group photo of Heritage Club members at School of Scholars, Atray Layout, Nagpur – Nagpur Chapter

As part of the Architectural Conservation elective for B.Arch. VII semester students, a site visit to the city’s only centrally protected Old High Court was conducted under Dr. Madhura Rathod. The exercise familiarized students with heritage conservation, architectural documentation, and context-based interventions, covering historical layering, material decay, cultural context, documentation techniques, and adaptive reuse potential. Students engaged in sketches, notes, and discussions on conservation ethics, followed by a reflection session to reinforce key learning outcomes and practical understanding.

On 20 August, the Chapter hosted its annual Inter-City Heritage Quiz at Smt. Manoramabai Mundle College of Architecture, Seminary Hills. Around 175 students from 18 schools participated under the guidance of Dr. Madhura Rathod, INTACH New Delhi, and Mr. Manoj Jain, Co-convenor, INTACH Nagpur Chapter. Quizmaster Mr. Anup Manchalwar engaged



Heritage Club establishment at School of Scholars, Atray Layout, Nagpur – Nagpur Chapter



Dr. Madhura Rathod during The Future Leaders Summit – Nagpur Chapter

students with questions on art, history, and heritage. In the school category, Aaditya Rajurkar and Namman Tripathi (Bhavan’s Trimurti Nagar) won first prize.

The Chapter held its General Body Meeting on 14 September, with members discussing future proposals and collaborative initiatives. Key discussions focused on partnerships with Rotary, UNESCO Association Guwahati, and other cultural organizations, aiming to enhance heritage awareness and outreach. The meeting concluded with members agreeing to pursue these initiatives and prepare detailed proposals for upcoming sessions.

The Chapter, in collaboration with Rotary Club of Nagpur MIHAN Town 3030 and Priyadarshini College of Engineering organized the Future Leaders Summit to inspire youth by linking heritage awareness with modern leadership values. The initiative provided a platform for students to learn, participate, and develop as responsible, culturally rooted, and community-minded leaders, reflecting INTACH’s commitment to nurturing the next generation for a better tomorrow.

✓ PUNE

The Puneri Saree Revival project, led by INTACH Pune and Hampi-Anegundi Chapters in collaboration with the Heritage Craft and Communication Division (HCCD), was launched on 27 September at Pune International Centre by Chief Guest Smt. Supriya Sule, in the presence of Maharashtra State Convenor Mukund Bhogale, Pune Chapter Convenor Dr. Sharvey Dhongde, and the Pune Chapter EC team. The launch felicitated chief weaver Ramesh Ayodi and featured a Natya Sangeet performance by Kaveri Institute students.

INTACH Pune hosted a three-day exhibition showcasing four decades of heritage work and Pune Chapter projects. Activities included a meet-and-greet with the weaver, a Ganjifa workshop for school children led by artisan Sachin Kulkarni, a film screening with a talk by textile designer Mala Sinha, and a session on devotional traditions by heritage experts.

The Ganjifa Cards Painting workshop on 28 September, part of the HECS Endangered



Dr. Madhura Rathod, honored to have been inducted as a member of the UNESCO Association, Guwahati and appointed as INTACH Maharashtra State Co Convenor (Vidarbha Region) with INTACH Chairman Shri Ashok Singh Thakur (center) and Gp. Capt. (Retd.) Arvind Shukla (Director, Chapters)



Puneri Saree Revival Event – Pune Chapter



Ganjifa Cards Painting workshop – Pune Chapter

Crafts series, was conducted by INTACH Pune for 55 school children. Participants learned traditional painting techniques from artisan Sachin Kulkarni, assisted by student volunteers from Dr. B.N. College of Architecture. A competition was held to create Ganjifa cards for Women in Cricket, with winning entries displayed at the Blades of Glory Cricket Museum.

On 16 October, the Chapter organized the Bhondla festival at Sevasadan English Medium School, a traditional Maharashtrian folk celebration involving songs, games, and Thipkyanchi Rangoli, conducted by Dr. Asmita Joshi. The program concluded with the serving of traditional Maharashtrian snacks.

The Chapter partnered with Yashoda College of Architecture and other organizations for the Historic Cities Series 2025 – Satara Edition on 11 October. Under

the patronage of Chhatrapati Vrushaliraje Bhonsle, the event included heritage walks and awareness sessions at the historic Satara palace and surrounding areas.

As part of its monthly heritage walk series, INTACH Pune conducted several walks covering Pune’s cultural and architectural heritage, including the Prarthana Samaj Walk in July, Vitthal Rukmini Mandir Walk in September, and a Core City walk in October. Thematic walks on the Ganesh Festival were held in August and September. Customized walks were also organized for students, teachers, corporate groups, and families across Pune’s Cantonment and Core City areas in collaboration with various architecture colleges and schools.

INTACH experts participated in public discussions, with Convenor Dr. Sharvey Dhongde joining a panel on

sustainable mobility in Pune on World Car Free Day, while Co-Convenor Supriya Mahabaleshwarkar spoke on “Plants of Pune” at a monthly environmental meet-up.

From 8–10 September, INTACH Pune, Maharashtra Vruksh Samvardhini, Vanarai, and SPPU organized a three-day webinar on wetland conservation for World Water Week. Experts covered topics including biodiversity, mangroves, and wetland restoration. The event, curated by Co-Convenor Supriya Mahabaleshwarkar and EC member Mukul Mahabaleshwarkar, drew over 100 participants, including researchers, students, and conservation enthusiasts.

The Chapter held its Annual Members’ Meeting on 25 July, attended by 30 INTACH members, to review the year’s activities and discuss future initiatives.

The chapter launched the quarterly e-newsletter *Pune Patrika Ashadh 2025*, highlighting events, activities, and heritage-related articles and photo essays.

✓ SOLAPUR

The Chapter conducted the INTACH National Heritage Quiz 2025 – Solapur City Round on 22 July at SPM English School, with participation from 17 schools, 33 teams, and 64 students. The quiz was overseen by Ar. Pushpanjali Katikar, with Ar. Shveta Kothavale as Quiz Master.

The first round was evaluated by INTACH members Govardhan Chatla, Masai Chatla, Geetanjali Diddi, Adv. Monika Timke, Anuja Dustkar, and Rohini Jokare. During the event, Mrs. Madhuri Gaikwad, Social Sciences teacher at KLE English Medium School, spoke on cultivating reading as a habit, citing examples of Swami Vivekananda and A. P. J. Abdul Kalam.

Four teams advanced to the second round, with Ms. Anushka Amol Gaikwad and Master Sujay Mohan Hajare from V. M. Mehta High School emerging as winners. Certificates and books were awarded to the winners, and all participants received certificates.



Heritage tour to various Handloom units in Solapur – Solapur Chapter



Ar. Kothavale presenting the history of Solapur, Head Post Office – Solapur Chapter



Solapur, Maharashtra, India
Mwq3+322, Siddheshwar Temple Area, Solapur, Maharashtra 413001, India
Lat: 17.675273° N Long: 75.922353° E
03/10/2025 03:24 PM GMT +05
Fort Walk for Students of Civil Engineering – Solapur Chapter



Four teams from Heritage Quiz 2025 that entered the second round along with their teachers – Solapur Chapter

The Chapter conducted its Annual Meeting on 3 August at Naivedyam, Hotel Lotus, Solapur, with 15 members in attendance, including Dr. Kiran and Dr. Shrikant Patankar, Dr. Sanjay Manthale, Rajiv Dipali, Govardhan Chatla, Shashikant Patil, Shrirang Regoti, Shirish Kothavale,

Nitin Anvekar, Dr. Chaphalkar, Dr. Katikar, and Shveta Kothavale. New members Prof. Sangita Bavge, Prof. Bhimgonda Patil, and Dr. Dhanesh Ligade, also joined the meeting.

On the occasion of National Handloom Day 2025, the Chapter organized a heritage walk to handloom units in Solapur, highlighting the city's rich tradition in sarees, wall hangings, towels, and Sataranji carpets. The walk included visits to Mr. Nagnath Madgundi's saree weaving unit, Mr. Srinivas and Mr. Sudarshan Anantulu's units, and Mr. Rajesham Sadul's wall hanging unit. Participants learned about weaving techniques, material changes, and the skill required to produce these textiles, with many trying their hand at weaving Pancha towels.

The initiative was organized by INTACH life member Govardhan Chatla, coordinated by Co-Convenor Shveta Kothavale and Convenor Prof. Narendra Katikar, and attended by founding member Dr. Seemantini Chaphalkar, Prof. Bhimgonda Patil, Anita Dhoble, Rupali Dhamane, Shrirang Regoti, Nitin Anvekar, Sheetal Birajdar, and others. The event received extensive coverage in print and electronic media.

The Chapter was invited by the Bank of India's Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI), Soregaon, to interact with 25 trainees from across Solapur District. Co-Convenors Ar. Shveta Kothavale and Ar. Pushpanjali Katikar highlighted the importance of documenting and preserving local heritage, encouraging the trainees to engage with traditional arts, crafts, food, and festive rituals as part of their learning.

On Independence Day 2025, the Chapter organized a heritage walk to the Solapur Head Post Office, attended by staff, heritage enthusiasts, and INTACH members. The event began with flag hoisting, followed by a march to the Gandhi statue. Dr. Narendra Katikar and Ar. Shveta Kothavale introduced the history and significance of the building, and Founder Convenor Dr. Seemantini Chaphalkar conducted a tour detailing its architecture and materials. The event concluded with refreshments, and the

Senior Post Master and Sr. Superintendent were presented with brochures and thank-you notes.

On 24 August, the Chapter organized a Fort Walk led by life member Nitin Anvekar, attended by over 70 heritage enthusiasts. Participants explored key sites including Hatti Darwaza, Shahar Darwaza, Padmavati Buruz, Nishaan Buruz, Rana Mandala, Kaid Khana, Hatti-Kana, Kapilasiddhamallikarjun Mandir, and Battiskhambi Masjid, gaining insight into the fort's 500-year history.

The Chapter was also invited by Lokmat Daily for a discussion on the city's heritage, led by journalist Mr. Jalkotkar and supported by Editor Milind Kulkarni. Founder Convenor Dr. Seemantini Chaphalkar, Convenor Dr. Narendra Katikar, Co-Convenor Ar. Shveta Kothavale, and life member Nitin Anvekar attended the session.

Ar. Shveta Kothavale delivered a lecture on India's heritage to second-year Civil Engineering students at Walchand Institute of Technology, emphasizing built heritage, documentation, listing, and restoration practices. The students further participated in a Fort Walk under the guidance of Ar. Kothavale and Nitin Anvekar to observe monuments firsthand, with support from Convenor Dr. Katikar and Prof. Jhaveri.

Odisha

On 24 July, the team visited Jajpur and met Chapter members and Convenor Prof. Anil Kumar Mohanty. The Chapter was advised to undertake a fresh, detailed listing of all heritage structures and to follow the 2024 Guidelines, including the three-year Convenor tenure and leadership rotation by consensus. Members were urged to act as heritage watchdogs and to strengthen outreach by inducting new members, starting Heritage Clubs in colleges, and organising monthly heritage walks. The Chapter was also encouraged to seek CSR support from local industries, with State Chapter backing.

The team then travelled to Balasore district to meet Shri Jagadish Ch. Harichandan Mardaraj of the former Nilagiri State.

Support was offered for a detailed listing of heritage sites in Nilagiri and Oupada tehsils. Concerns over thefts from the Ajodhya site museum, a major Buddhist and Jain centre, will be taken up with higher authorities.

In Mayurbhanj, the team gathered information on heritage sites in the Kaptipada region and later met the Maharajah and Maharani at Belgadia Palace. Key issues raised included the proposed demolition of the two-century-old Mayurbhanj Palace, the deteriorating Jubilee Library, the need to support Mayurbhanj Chhau dance, and the preservation of local crafts such as tussar handloom and sabai grass. Shri Anil Dhir shared plans to prepare a comprehensive heritage listing of Mayurbhanj district for presentation to the Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, to strengthen conservation efforts.

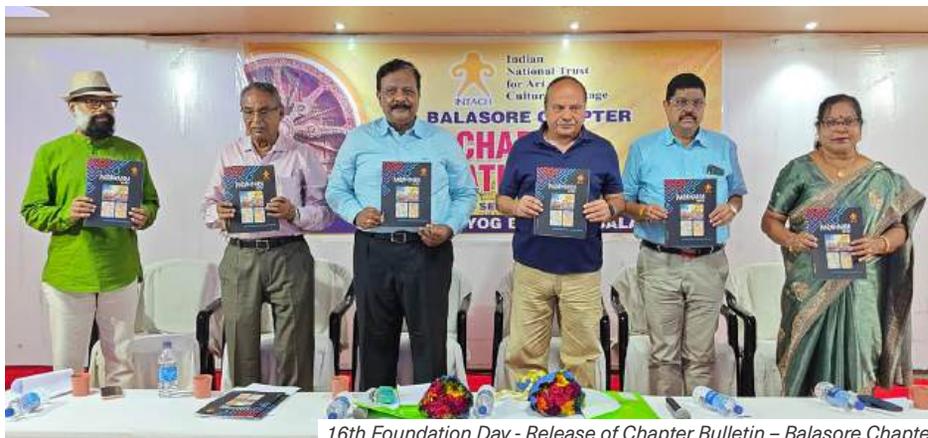
On 25 July, a joint press conference was held at Belgadia Palace announcing INTACH Odisha's initiative to begin



State Convenor and Co Convenor inspecting heritage Red Church (1866) with Balasore chapter members – Odisha State Chapter



The State Convenor, Co-Convenor and the members at Balasore chapter meeting – Odisha State Chapter



16th Foundation Day - Release of Chapter Bulletin – Balasore Chapter

comprehensive listing of all heritage sites in Mayurbhanj district. A special documentation volume will be prepared for presentation to the Hon'ble President of India, who hails from the district.

A memorial service was held on 26 July at the Amarda Road Airfield to honour the 14 Allied airmen who died in the 1945 training crash. Led by INTACH Co-Convenor Shri Anil Dhir, the event was attended by the Maharaja and Maharani of Mayurbhanj, local dignitaries, students, and citizens. Shri Dhir also proposed an annual Rasgovindpur Festival to promote local arts and Chhau dance. The team then visited the Balasore Chapter, briefing members on the 2024 Guidelines, leadership rotation, forming Heritage Clubs, monthly walks, and reporting heritage threats. They also inspected the Lal Girija (Red Church, 1866) and discussed restoration and CSR support due to unauthorized alterations.

In Bhadrak, the Co-Convenor chaired the meeting, emphasizing updated listings with GPS details, membership strengthening, vigilance against idol thefts, and student engagement. Dr. Bhagabat Tripathy reported theft of three listed statues. The chapter agreed to initiate Heritage Clubs and regular walks.

✓ BHADRAK

The Chapter held its Investiture Function on 12 August at Nityananda Bhawan, chaired by Convener Digambar Mohanty and coordinated by Co-Convenor S.M. Farooque. Fifteen new ordinary members were welcomed, and eleven

existing members were converted to life membership. Identity cards and logos issued by the Delhi Headquarters were distributed, followed by the members taking the INTACH pledge. Guidance from the newly appointed State Convenor was discussed, with further discussion deferred to the next meeting, and the function concluded with a vote of thanks.

✓ BALASORE

A Summer Camp for school students was organized in collaboration with Balasore Art & Crafts College and Balasore Artistic Crafts School, attended by 72 students from 27 April to 4 May. Participants were trained in clay modelling, glass painting, origami, block painting, sketching, and painting, and all received certificates.

The INTACH All India Heritage Quiz was held at Sidhi Vinayak Public School, Balasore, on 17 August with 90 participants from nine schools. Six teams qualified for the oral round conducted by Quizmaster Shri V. Uday Kumar, and the winning team from DAV Public School advanced to the Regional Rounds at Bhubaneswar.

The Chapter celebrated its 16th Foundation Day on 5 September at Udyog Bhawan, presided over by Convenor Shri Uday Ranjan Das, with State Convenor Shri Biswajit Mohanty and Shri Gyana Ranjan Dash, IAS (Retd), as Guests of Honour. The annual report was presented, "Sikshak Gourav Samman" was awarded to Shri Binod Bihari Panda, prizes for various competitions were distributed, and the Chapter bulletin *Parampara* was released.



A two-day workshop on Terracotta crafts was conducted on 18–19 October at Balasore Art & Crafts College with 33 students from seven schools. Inaugurated by Shri Gobinda Chandra Das, the training was led by craft lecturers and MVA students. All participants received certificates, and the three best entries were forwarded to the HECS Division for further evaluation.

KORAPUT

The Chapter, in collaboration with the State Chapter, District Administration and COATS, successfully completed the Kerang Project. Weavers Smt. Sebati Sisa and Mani Kirsani produced six pairs of Kerang fabric and were felicitated at a meeting in Bhubaneswar on 18 April, where the project leader, Sri Sanjeeb Chandra Hota, also released his book *Kerang Fabric of Gadaba of Koraput District, Odisha*. The Chapter nominated Smt. Sebati Sisa for the 6th Martand Singh Memorial Award 2024, for which she received a cash prize of ₹20,000 from INTACH's Heritage Craft and Community Division. Additionally, a grant of ₹23.85 lakh for Kerang weaving training and ₹15.5 lakh for a dedicated building—supported through efforts coordinated by Convenor Shri Anil Dhir—was sanctioned and is under implementation.

The Chapter has urged authorities to refurbish the century-old Koraput Circle Jail cell where freedom fighter Laxman Nayak was lodged before being



Observation of Guru Diwas – Koraput Chapter

moved to Berhampur Jail, where he was hanged on 29 Marc, 1943. Convenor Ajit Patra emphasized the cell's historical significance and neglect, suggesting its restoration as a heritage corner with a library, statue, and photo gallery. INTACH has offered to coordinate the renovation while preserving the original structure. He noted that preserving such sites honours local freedom fighters and fosters public pride. Jail Superintendent Kuanr Marandi confirmed the cell, though unused, contains Nayak's photograph and a continuously lit bulb, and said the restoration proposal would be submitted to higher authorities.

The Chapter, in collaboration with COATS and the Foundation for Ecological Society (FES), organized World Indigenous Day on 9 August 2025 at COATS seminar hall. The event aimed to raise awareness on tribal needs and honour families of tribal leaders who contributed to India's freedom movement. Chief Guest Prof.

Maguni Charan Behera highlighted the significance of the day and the progress of indigenous populations, while other speakers emphasized tribal cultural heritage, protection of traditional knowledge, and the potential use of AI for tribal development. The son of Freedom Fighter Saheed Durlabh Hontal, Sri. Banu Bihari Hontal, was honoured, and the event concluded with a vote of thanks.

On 5 September, the Chapter observed Guru Diwas at Jeypore Government High School to honour retired teachers and researchers contributing to tribal studies. MLA Sri. Tara Prasad Bahinipati was Chief Guest, and Prof. P.C. Mohapatro presided. Scholars and retired teachers, including Prof. Maguni Charan Behera, Dr. Subash Chandra Mishra, and four retired school teachers, were felicitated. Two books on Freedom Fighter Gadadhar Mohapatra by Dr. Paresh Kumar Rath were inaugurated. The programme highlighted INTACH's efforts in preserving Koraput's cultural heritage and promoting education, concluding with a vote of thanks.

Punjab

Bhai Baldeep Singh, a 13th-generation exponent of Gurmat Sangeet, conducted a seminar on 24 May, sharing rare insights into Sikh sacred music and the traditional raag-based rendition of Gurbani. Renowned for reviving instruments like the rabab, saranda, and taus, he highlighted the historical, spiritual, and pedagogical dimensions of this intangible heritage, drawing from decades of research across India and Pakistan.



Production of Kerang fabric of Gadaba of Koraput District, Odisha – Koraput Chapter



Seminar on Intangible Culture – Punjab State Chapter

In June, Ferozpur Fort, built in 1839 and historically significant for its three-layered defenses and role in the 1857 Sepoy Revolt, was opened to the public after over 200 years, following efforts by Army authorities. The fort had strategic importance, including serving as an arsenal base for the British recapture of the Red Fort in Delhi.

Sultanpur Lodhi, one of India's oldest towns, is being revitalized as a center of interfaith harmony and universal brotherhood, inspired by Guru Nanak Dev Ji's teachings. Believed to have been established in the 1st century AD, the town gained historical significance under the Delhi Sultanate and the Lodhi dynasty. Guru Nanak lived here for over 14 years and, after a transformative experience at the Kali Bein rivulet, proclaimed 'Na koi Hindu, na Musalman,' emphasizing unity and equality. INTACH Punjab, under Maj Gen (Retd) Balwinder Singh, is working to preserve Sultanpur Lodhi's heritage, including historic gurdwaras, Lodhi-era structures, and the revitalized Kali Bein, while promoting cultural heritage walks and local guide training to share the town's layered spiritual and historical narrative.

In Hoshiarpur district, INTACH Punjab Chapter, in collaboration with Guru Gobind Public School, Nainowal Vaid, announced plans to adopt and preserve the Dolbaha War Memorial, highlighting Punjab's underappreciated military history. The village of Dolbaha contributed 73 soldiers to World War I, a remarkable number for its size, though official records recognize only two. INTACH aims to document and commemorate these soldiers properly,



Conservation of heritage well of Saragarhi Fame Naik Lal Singh, Dhun Dhaiwala village – Punjab State Chapter

propose a small museum at the memorial, and establish a military history wing to preserve Punjab's martial heritage, ensuring future generations recognize and connect with this legacy.

INTACH has undertaken efforts to preserve the legacy of Saragarhi Dhun Dhun and associated heritage sites. On 12 September, 1897, Naik Lal Singh and 21 Sikh soldiers of the 36th Sikh Regiment made the ultimate sacrifice defending the Saragarhi outpost against over 10,000 Afghan tribesmen. Under the guidance of INTACH Tarn Taran Convenor Dr. Baljit Kaur and State Convenor Maj Gen Balwinder Singh, the Dhun Dhaiwala village Panchayat and volunteers manually restored a historic well on Naik Lal Singh's land, confirming its vintage through earthen buckets discovered during excavation. Adjacent to the well stands the Naik Lal Singh War Memorial, where over 2,000 people gather annually to honor the martyrs, all of whom were posthumously awarded the Indian Order of Merit, the highest gallantry award of the time. INTACH's initiative ensures this heroic chapter and its heritage sites are preserved for posterity.

The Asal Uttar War Memorial and Museum, Punjab's first military heritage site, was dedicated to the nation on 30 September, by Governor Gulab Chand Kataria in the presence of Lt Gen Manoj Kumar Katiyar. Located in Khemkaran sector, the site commemorates the decisive Battle of Asal Uttar in September 1965, where Indian forces repelled a major Pakistani armoured offensive, earning the battlefield the name 'Graveyard of Pattons.' The memorial also includes other key battles such as Barki

(1965) and Sehjra (1971), highlighting acts of bravery and tactical brilliance by soldiers including CQMH Abdul Hamid, posthumously awarded the Param Vir Chakra. INTACH, led by Maj Gen Balwinder Singh, in partnership with the Indian Army, is developing the site as a comprehensive military heritage experience with guided tours, educational programmes, and community engagement to ensure local history is preserved, interpreted, and shared responsibly.

A tribute ceremony was held at Village Sarwali, Gurdaspur, to honor World War I martyrs Havildar Kala Singh and Sepoy Hazara Singh of the 45 Rattray Sikhs on their 107th and 108th martyrdom anniversaries. Maj Gen Balwinder Singh, VSM (Retd.), Convenor INTACH Punjab, highlighted their sacrifices and urged youth to preserve Punjab's cultural heritage and consider opportunities in the Indian Army. A ceremonial guard was presented by the 4 Sikh (Saragarhi) Battalion, and special guest Kunwar Amritbir Singh inspired youth to pursue discipline and fitness.

INTACH Punjab also held the State Level Quiz on Culture and Heritage at Army Public School, Beas, on 7 November, with teams from eleven districts. The competition covered built, natural, living, and military heritage, as well as Punjab's cultural history. Spring Dale Senior School, Amritsar, won first place and will represent Punjab at the National level, followed by MGN Public School, Kapurthala, and General Gurnam Singh Public School, Sangrur. Maj Gen Singh emphasized the importance of educating youth about Punjab's unique cultural and military heritage.

✓ AMRITSAR

The Chapter organized a Heritage Walk on 9 June to explore the city's rich cultural and historical legacy, attended by local residents and around 50 school teachers. The walk began at the Partition Museum, Town Hall, where Convenor Gagandeep Singh Virk led participants in pledging to safeguard Amritsar's heritage.

Guided by Gurvinder Johal, the tour highlighted architectural and cultural



Members' participation in the ongoing Punjab flood relief – Amritsar Chapter



Celebration of World Tourism Day: A visit to lesser known historical sites of Amritsar – Amritsar Chapter



National Heritage Quiz City Round at Delhi Public School Amritsar – Amritsar Chapter

landmarks, while historian Surinder Kochhar shared insights from his extensive research on the city's past. The initiative aimed to familiarize teachers with Amritsar's heritage so they could inspire students to appreciate and preserve it, fostering awareness and pride among the younger generation.

The Chapter responded swiftly to severe flooding in Punjab, which affected 8–14 districts and over 1,000 villages, submerging nearly forty villages in the Ajnala–Ramdass belt and destroying crops on around three lakh acres. Thousands of families were displaced, schools closed, and daily life disrupted. The chapter mobilized relief efforts with local institutions and volunteers, providing food, water, medicines, tarpaulins, and animal fodder. They are also documenting artisan losses and assessing damage to heritage structures. INTACH Amritsar remains committed to ongoing relief and recovery, addressing community needs while protecting Punjab's cultural heritage.

The Chapter organized the City Round of the National Heritage Quiz on 18 August at Delhi Public School, Amritsar. Convener, Shri Gagandeep Singh Virk shared that 14 schools participated, with 130 students

competing in a written round followed by an oral round conducted by heritage quiz master Mr. Muhammad Bilal Farooqi.

Spring Dale Senior School won the final round, with Saurish Nagpal and Sehajnoor Kaur qualifying for the State Round. DAV Public School secured both second and third positions. Schools taking part included Spring Dale Senior School, DAV Public School, Delhi Public School, Amritsar, Howard Lane Senior School, Army Public School Amritsar, Sant Giani Gurbachan Singh Ji Khalsa Academy, DAV International School, Pathseekers, Nishan-e-Sikhi International School, Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan S.L. Public School, Holy Heart Presidency School, BAS Riarki Public School, and Khalsa College International Public School.

Historian, Shri. Surinder Kochhar highlighted the importance of preserving Amritsar's heritage, while Principal Shri. Kamal Chand appreciated INTACH's initiative. The event concluded with the felicitation of the winning teams and special honours for Principal, Shri Kamal Chand and Shri. Surinder Kochhar.

The Chapter, in collaboration with the Panjab Foundation, INTACH Punjab, and Riarki institutions, celebrated World Tourism Day with a heritage journey to Amritsar's lesser-known historical sites. Led by the Convener, Gagandeep Singh Virk and guided by historian Surinder Kochhar, participants visited Sarai Amanat Khan, the baoli, Diwan Todarmal's pond, ancient havelis, the Kos Minar, the samadhi of Sham Singh Attariwala, and the ancestral home of Maharaja Sher

Singh's family. Students and heritage enthusiasts gained valuable insights into the history and architecture of these sites. The event saw participation from various dignitaries and school groups, highlighting the importance of experiential learning and public awareness in preserving Amritsar's cultural heritage.

Two historic wells believed to date back to the era of Baba Budha Sahib Ji have been rediscovered near Ramdas, Punjab, along the old route to Narowal. Located near Gurdwara Baba Budha Sahib Ji (Samadh), the wells were unearthed on 20 October through a revival effort led by INTACH Punjab, INTACH Amritsar, and the Randhawa family. The work began with an Ardas and distribution of Karah Prashad, honouring Sikh tradition. This initiative aims to restore these long-forgotten structures and strengthen the connection to Punjab's cultural and spiritual heritage. Further updates on the project's progress will continue to be shared, and those interested in supporting the effort are welcome to reach out.

✓ BATHINDA

The Chapter conducted a quiz competition on 9 October at Lord Rama School, with



Participants for the Quiz Competition – Bathinda Chapter

participation from seven schools and 98 students. The winners were Shivam Gudara and Trshat from Silver Oak School. Prizes were presented by Jagjit Singh Chouhan from Kolkata.

✓ FIROZPUR

The INTACH Heritage Quiz was held on 22 August at DC Model International School, attracting 82 students from reputed schools. Designed to raise awareness about India's rich cultural heritage, the quiz challenged participants on history, culture, monuments, traditions, and conservation. Dass & Brown World School won first place and will represent the region at the State Level round. The event successfully fostered enthusiasm, learning, and pride in India's heritage.

✓ HOSHIARPUR

Guru Gobind Singh Public School, Nainowal Vaid, hosted the INTACH National Heritage Quiz for Hoshiarpur, with 76 students from seven schools participating. Showcasing excellent teamwork and knowledge, GGPS secured the first position.

✓ JALANDHAR

During the Jalandhar session, prominent local figures attended, including S. Prem Singh (Chairman, Guru Mission Hospital), Lt Gen Amrik Bahia, Lt Gen Gurdip Singh,



Members and local eminent personalities at the Jalandhar session – Jalandhar Chapter

Maj Gen Manjit Singh, Maj Gen JDS Bedi, Brig T S Sandhu, Kulbir Singh (ex-IGP), Rashima Singh (interior decorator), Principal Harjit Singh, and the Principal of Guru Gobind Singh Public School, among others.

Amardeep Singh and his wife Vininder Kaur have produced a 24-episode documentary series, *Allegory: A Tapestry of Guru Nanak's Travels*, filmed in nine countries at multi-faith sites and available in five languages on TheGuruNanak.com. The series earned Amardeep the 8th Biennial Interfaith Award from Hofstra University (USA) in 2022. Currently, they are leading the *Oneness in Diversity* project, which creates multi-lingual (English, Hindi, Punjabi) audio-visual educational content on Guru Nanak and the Bhakti-era saints whose teachings are enshrined in the Guru Granth Sahib. The project highlights messages of universal harmony and social integration, including metaphoric translations of 1,653 sabads rendered in traditional musicology.

Jalandhar Chapter conducted the district-level INTACH Heritage Quiz on 6 November at Nakodar, with 78 students forming 39 teams from eight schools. AI International School, Nakodar, secured the first position.

✓ KAPURTHALA

The Chapter conducted a Quiz Competition on 5 November wherein 8 schools participated with strength of 82. MGN Kapurthala stood first.

✓ MALERKOTLA

The Chapter organized the National Heritage Quiz 2025 on 27 October, including



Presenting prizes to winners of the Quiz Competition – Kapurthala Chapter

written and oral rounds. Eighty students from various schools competed in the written round, with the top five teams advancing to the oral round. AI-Falah Public Senior Secondary School secured both first and second positions across local, state, and national levels. The event began with a welcome by the school principal, Madam Rehana Naqvi, who greeted participants, parents, and INTACH team members. Local journalists also attended.

Dr. Salim Mohd, Convenor, Malerkotla Chapter, congratulated the winners and all participants, highlighting the importance of such competitions in motivating students. Certificates were awarded to all participants, while winners received cash prizes, certificates, and General Knowledge books. The event concluded with thanks from Mr. Sabir Ali Zubairi, Co-Convenor, and was well received by all attendees.

✓ PATIALA

The Chapter organized two motivational lectures at Government Multipurpose Senior Secondary School, Patiala on 23 August to instill values among students and sensitize them to their rich heritage. Renowned artist Sukhpal Singh emphasized observing the good values embedded in our cultural traditions. Principal Vijay Kapoor highlighted the need to preserve our value system, stressing simplicity, hard work, nutritious food, respect for elders, and helping those in need—virtues passed down by our ancestors. Convenor, Shri Sarbjit Singh Virk addressed the students on environmental responsibility, urging them to contribute towards reducing pollution and protecting nature for a healthier future.



The Chapter hosted visiting foreign delegate at Saragahi memorial – Firozpur Chapter



Participants for the competition of INTACH National Heritage Quiz – Hoshiarpur Chapter



Members at the Annual Meeting of Patiala Chapter – Patiala Chapter



Heritage Quiz Winners – Patiala Chapter

The Chapter also organized the National Heritage Quiz 2025 at the school auditorium, with Quiz Masters Parmveer Singh and Haspreet Kaur conducting the event. Sixty-two students from seven schools participated, with teams selected for the oral round based on written performance. The British Co-Ed High School team of Parnika and Prabhasis Singh secured first place. All remaining participants received consolation prizes, and the programme concluded with thanks from Advocate Jatinder Singh Sarao and refreshments for the students.

Patiala Chapter held its annual meeting on 23 August at Patiala Baradari Club under the presidentship of senior member Laljit Singh Sandhu. Members reviewed the chapter's ongoing heritage protection campaigns and heard Convenor, Sarbjit Singh Virk present the previous year's activities, including seminars, workshops, competitions, and special lectures in educational and other institutes. The discussion also focused on future initiatives, such as cleanliness

drives at heritage sites and expanding the chapter's outreach to rural areas of Patiala district. Senior member Reet Iqbal Singh Majhail concluded the meeting by thanking participants and emphasizing continued efforts to advance INTACH's objectives.

✓ SANGRUR

The Chapter held the Heritage Quiz Competition 2025 on 8 October at Gen Gurnam Singh Public School. The date was postponed several times due to school closures and floods. A total of 140 students from 11 schools participated in the written round.

Four teams advanced to the oral round: three from Gen Gurnam Singh Public School and one from Rosemary School. After seven oral rounds, the first and second positions were both won by teams from Gen Gurnam Singh Public School. The event was conducted under teacher supervision, with the Student Quiz Master and scorers managing the

rounds. The school principal, teachers, staff, and students provided strong support in organizing the competition.

✓ TARN TARAN

On 30 October, the Tarn Taran chapter conducted a heritage quiz at Majha Public School. A total of 96 students from 10 schools participated, and the team from Guru Nanak Academy secured first place, showcasing their knowledge and enthusiasm for cultural heritage.

As part of the Diamond Jubilee of the India-Pakistan 1965 War, the Army and INTACH jointly established Punjab's first Military Heritage Memorial and Museum



Participants and winners for the Quiz Competition – Tarn Taran Chapter

in Khemkaran, Tarn Taran district. The memorial and museum were inaugurated by the Governor of Punjab and the Western Army Commander, highlighting the region's historic military legacy.

Rajasthan

✓ AJMER

The Chapter organized a heritage quiz at Turning Point School, with 72 students from 11 schools participating. Chief Guest Neeraj Tripathi, Circle Superintendent, Department of Archives and Museums, emphasized that preserving India's cultural heritage is the responsibility of the younger generation and highlighted its nationwide significance. Convenor Rajesh Garg welcomed the Chief Guest with a garland and briefed him on INTACH's heritage initiatives, while Co-convenor Mahendra Singh Chauhan presented the INTACH insignia and Vijay Sharma offered a shawl as a mark of respect. The oral round was



Organizers for the Quiz Competition on India's rich heritage – Ajmer Chapter

conducted by INTACH member Anil Lodha, and certificates were distributed to all participants.

ALWAR

On 12 July, the Chapter celebrated the Forest Festival at Shri Bal Krishna Higher Secondary School in the Rajgarh block to raise awareness among children about conserving natural heritage and fostering environmental responsibility. As part of the program, nearly 300 students received saplings to plant at home. The Chapter also launched the Environmental Heritage Club with the school teachers and organized a tree-hunting competition where students identified and named different tree species.

Convenor Sunita Mittal motivated the students to care for trees, explaining the harmful effects of deforestation, the benefits of trees, and the vital role of forests in maintaining ecological balance. She also highlighted how planting trees can improve air quality, reduce stress, and bring positive energy to homes. The program was attended by School Director Satish Saini, Principal Yogesh Sharma, teachers, INTACH coordinator Sunita Mittal, member Rajkumar Saini, and around 350 students.



Geo-heritage Walk and Discussion – Alwar Chapter

At the conclusion, all students and teachers pledged to fulfill their responsibilities toward the conservation of nature.

On 6 October, the Chapter organized a Geo-heritage Walk and Discussion at the Biodiversity Park to mark International Geodiversity Day, themed 'One Earth, Many Stories.' Expert Sanjeev Kargwal explained Earth's materials, rocks, soil, fossils, and minerals, highlighting Alwar's rich geology, while stressing the impact of human activities on climate change. Participants learned about local medicinal plants and dependent wildlife, and INTACH Convenor Sunita Mittal emphasized biodiversity as vital for life, with Co-Convenor Bijendra Singh Naruka thanking all attendees at the conclusion.

BARAN

The Department of Archaeology and Museums, State Museum Baran, in collaboration with INTACH Baran Chapter, organized a Hindi Diwas seminar under the Jaipur Directorate. The event included discussions on the relevance of Hindi in the modern era, led by Bhairulal Bhaskar, Pradyumna Verma, Jitendra Kumar Sharma, Sandeep Singh Jadaun, Dr. Manoj Singoria, Hari Agarwal, and Hemraj Bansal, followed by a poetry session featuring recitations.

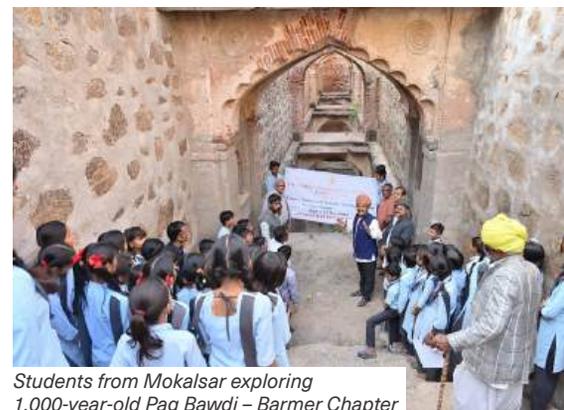
BARMER

The Chapter organized an arts and crafts workshop at the Vaidyanath Mahadev Temple in Mokalsar, focusing on heritage preservation under the guidance of Rawal Kishan Singh. He emphasized that protecting art, culture, and traditions is a collective responsibility, cautioning

against neglect in favor of modern lifestyles. Yashovardhan Sharma highlighted INTACH's objectives, promoting folk traditions and art tourism, while Vikram Singh stressed the urgent need to conserve the 1,000-year-old Pag Bawdi, a neglected architectural site. Craftsmen Bhura Ram Aati and Mala Ram Shobhala Jaitmal Gudamalani demonstrated traditional techniques for making blankets, rugs, and other crafts. Seventy-one students from local schools participated, receiving certificates, with the event attended by INTACH members, local administrators, teachers, and villagers.



Demonstration of traditional techniques and crafts – Barmer Chapter



Students from Mokalsar exploring 1,000-year-old Pag Bawdi – Barmer Chapter



Participants during the Forest Festival with the Environmental Heritage Club – Alwar Chapter





▼ BHILWARA

District Judge Rajesh Jain praised the Chapter for its outstanding efforts in heritage and nature conservation and honored teachers who have actively contributed to these initiatives. At a meet-and-greet at Hotel Nandini, teachers were felicitated with certificates and mementos. Convenor Babulal Jaju highlighted the importance of preserving natural and cultural heritage, while school competition in-charge Guman Singh Pipada outlined INTACH's objectives and ongoing initiatives. Program co-ordinator CA Dilip Goyal presented mementos to the chief guests, and INTACH members shared suggestions for further conservation efforts.

The Chapter also celebrated World Ozone Layer Protection Day at Maheshwari Public School, where Convenor Babulal Jaju emphasized the importance of protecting the ozone layer and encouraged students to plant trees and reduce excessive use of refrigerators and air conditioners. A quiz competition on environmental awareness was conducted, with certificates awarded to winners, and Om Narayaniwal, school president, explained the significance of ozone protection, motivating students to actively contribute to a healthier environment.

The Chapter organized a poster competition at Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Government Primary School as part of Wildlife Conservation Week, with 176 students from three schools participating to spread awareness about wildlife protection through their paintings. INTACH Convenor Babulal Jaju addressed the students, stressing that wildlife is vital for maintaining environmental balance and urging them to protect animals and natural resources. He also planted several trees, including jamun, on the school campus. INTACH School Activity In-charge Guman Singh Pipada and Suresh Surana reported the winners: in grades 6–8, Kamala Meena secured first place, Akanksha Lakhara second, and Sakshi Khatik third; in grades 9–10, Gayatri Regar was first, Deepika Regar second, and Sanjana Meena third. Certificates and mementos were presented to all participants, and the students took a pledge to conserve wildlife.

▼ BUNDI

On 2 October, Bundi observed International Non-Violence Day with a symposium and poetry reading organized by the Archaeological Department and INTACH Bundi Chapter at the State Museum, Sukhmahal. The event, inaugurated by Deputy Superintendent of Police Arun Kumar Sharma, Circle Superintendent Hemendra Awasthi, District Tourism Officer Premshankar Saini, and INTACH Convenor Rajkumar Dadhich, featured poetry recitals by INTACH members J.P. Tripathi and Omprakash Sharma Kukki, along with speeches by several dignitaries. Students took a pledge for non-violence, toured the museum and Sukhmahal Memorial, and participated in tree planting on the monument grounds.

The Bundi chapter celebrated the 210th birth anniversary of poet Suryamal Mishran on Kartik Krishna Pratipada with a ceremonial garlanding at Raniji's Stepwell, followed by a heritage walk. INTACH Convenor Rajkumar Dadhich highlighted the poet's literary legacy, emphasizing its importance to Rajasthani and Indian history. Distinguished guests included Khuman Singh, a descendant of the poet, and CMO Dr. Laxmi Narayan Meena. Rajasthani writers and educationists were honored with mementos, while students and local dignitaries visited historic sites such as Nagar Sagar Kund, Chaugan Darwaza, and the poet's ancestral haveli, gaining insight into Bundi's rich architectural and cultural heritage.

As part of the celebrations, INTACH organized a lamp-lighting ceremony and Ganga Aarti at Nagar Sagar Kund, illuminating the stepwell with thousands of lamps. Lamps were lit by INTACH office-bearers and local dignitaries, while Ramesh Navyuvak Mandal was honored for cleaning the stepwell ponds. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to heritage preservation and pledged to keep wells and water bodies clean.

As part of Mahakavi Suryamal Mishran Birth Anniversary Week organized by INTACH Bundi Chapter, a lecture series was held at PM Shri Government Higher



Participants for the Painting competition - Bundi Chapter

Secondary School, Bundi. Chief Guest Tej Kanwar highlighted the poet's contributions to Charan literature and his role in inspiring independence during the 1857 uprising. INTACH Convenor Rajkumar Dadhich detailed Suryamal Mishran's literary and heroic legacy, while coordinators and school officials discussed his impact. A portrait of the poet was presented, and the event concluded with a vote of thanks. A painting competition at Chaugan Gate School engaged nearly 100 students, with sixteen winners in junior and senior categories. INTACH highlighted the importance of Bundi painting and Suryamal Mishran's contribution to local art. Top prizes were awarded to Priyanka Rathore, Lakshya, Rajveer Rawat, and Riya Fatima, with remaining awards given by INTACH and in memory of Mrs. Shankari Devi. Painter Nand Prakash Sharma Nanji demonstrated techniques, and consolation prizes were given to all participants.

The Chapter inaugurated a tree plantation drive on Dussehra by planting a Shami Khejri sapling at Suryamal Vatika near the District Library, followed by the planting of various saplings at Sukh Mahal. The event was attended by dignitaries including DSP Arun Kumar Sharma, Tourism Officer Prem Shankar Saini, Convenor Rajkumar Dadhich, Co-Convenor Rajendra Bhardwaj, and other members.

On World Environment Day, INTACH Bundi organized a lecture series at Pathway Institute, Matunda, on 'Tourism and Sustainable Change.' Students learned about the significance of tourism, its link to heritage, culture, and archaeology, and Bundi's tourism potential. Convenor



A lecture series on World Environment Day – Bundi Chapter

Rajkumar Dadhich highlighted the philosophy of “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” and the importance of preserving India’s cultural legacy. The program featured insights from Co-Convenor Rajendra Bhardwaj, Ashok Talwas, and former Sarpanch Mahendra Sharma, with the institute’s Principal praising the discussion on cultural exchange, sustainable tourism, and the Green Tourism initiative.

CHITTORGARH – SUB-CHAPTER

Kanya Pujan, an important Navratri ritual honoring and pledging to educate and protect daughters, was celebrated by the INTACH Chittorgarh Chapter in Borda village. The event included KanyaBhoj for rural girls and distribution of gifts, emphasizing the preservation of traditions and respect for the feminine divine.

KARAULI

Members of the INTACH Karauli Chapter celebrated the 678th anniversary of Karauli city on Devutthapan Ekadashi, with Yuvraj Vivasvat Pal offering prayers at the Kalyanrai Temple and Ajyacharya Prakash Chand Jati conducting a collective aarti. A symposium highlighted the city’s founding in 1348 AD



Kanya Pujan and Kanya Bhoj – Chittorgarh Chapter

by King Arjun Dev, the establishment of temples, and the historic Birwas village. INTACH emphasized the need to preserve Karauli’s heritage, including forts, gardens, temples, and princely-era constructions, while speakers noted concerns over encroachments and damage to historic sites. The event was attended by prominent locals and heritage enthusiasts.

The Chapter organized a National Heritage Quiz at Bhanwar Vilas Marriage Garden, with 125 students from 13 schools participating. Teams of Ishant and Poorvi Chaturvedi of Lokhitkari Senior Secondary School won. The competition included written and oral rounds on the heritage of India, Rajasthan, and Karauli. Certificates, prizes, and awards for the Celebrating India Poster Competition were distributed, and Rajendra Dewan was honored for the chapter receiving the Best Chapter Award nationwide. Students from the Silent Deaf and Dumb School also showcased their talents during the event.

MARWAR/JODHPUR

The State-Level INTACH Heritage Quiz Competition 2025 was held at Chakelav Palace, Mehrangarh Fort, Jodhpur, with students from across Rajasthan participating. Kritika Jindal and Keshav Garg (Jaipur) won first place. The quiz featured four rounds on Rajasthan and India’s history, art, culture, and general knowledge. Chief Guest Aditi Purohit urged students to limit social media use and focus on learning. Certificates and mementos were presented to winners and participants, and the state winners will represent Rajasthan at the National INTACH Heritage Quiz in New Delhi.

An exhibition on ‘Mahamandir Baori Restoration and Jodhpur City’s Heritage’ was organized on 2 September, by Anandaya Foundation, INTACH Jodhpur Chapter, Mehrangarh Museum Trust, and Jodhpur Lore, inaugurated by Maharaja Shri Gaj Singh. It showcased the restoration of the Jhalare, Jodhpur’s ancient stepwells, the inner city, and the Clock Tower, with students from Vidyaashram International School performing a cultural program highlighting water conservation. Ms.



Organizers and visitors at the exhibition on ‘Mahamandir Baori Restoration and Jodhpur City’s Heritage’ – Jodhpur Chapter



Students at the exhibition on ‘Mahamandir Baori Restoration and Jodhpur City’s Heritage’ – Jodhpur Chapter

Anandaya shared insights on the Panghat Conservation Project, emphasizing preservation of Jhalare and heritage awareness. Following this, the first round of the INTACH National Heritage Quiz Competition 2025 was held on 12 September at Konark Senior Secondary School, with 97 students from seven schools participating. Dhairya Maheshwari and Mukut Bhati of Delhi Public School won first place.

NAGAUR

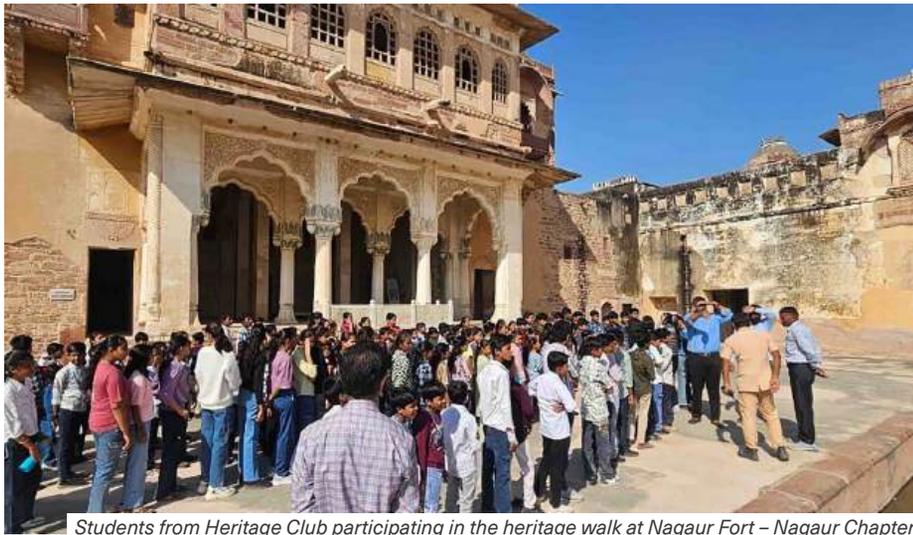
On 4 October, the 18th Foundation Day of the Bhakt Shiromani Meerabai Memorial Panorama in Merta was celebrated with great devotion and cultural fervor, with participation from INTACH Nagaur Chapter. The *Meera Utsav* featured devotional bhajans, Rajasthani folk songs, traditional dances, and short plays by local children and youth. Artists from the West Zone Cultural Centre, Sangeet Natak Academy, and local performers captivated the audience with performances including Laal Angi Geer Dance and Tejaji Maharaj



Celebrations of Meera Mahotsav by local children and artists – Nagaur Chapter

folk songs. The program began with a ceremonial lamp lighting and Nagada-Shehnai welcome. Chief Guest, Omkar Singh Lakhawat highlighted the memorial's significance as the most visited in the state, representing both devotion and the revolutionary feminine power of medieval Rajasthan, and announced a ₹42 lakh sanction for its development under the Panch Gaurav Yojana, including a future music and song gallery for devotees.

On 14 November, nearly 300 students from the INTACH Heritage Five Clubs participated in a Heritage Walk at Nagaur Fort, exploring its majestic architecture, ancient passages, and intricate wall paintings. The students' curiosity and excitement brought vibrancy to the visit, and refreshments were provided to ensure their comfort. The walk offered a memorable experience, deepening their connection to history and fostering pride in India's cultural heritage, inspiring them to become future guardians of this legacy.



Students from Heritage Club participating in the heritage walk at Nagaur Fort – Nagaur Chapter



General Body Meeting – Sawai Madhopur Chapter

SAWAI MADHOPUR

On 23 July, the Chapter held its General Body Meeting at Jogi Mahal Restaurant. Chief Guest Mr. Mohammad Yunus Khan, Director of the Rajiv Gandhi Natural Museum, and Special Guest satirist Mr. Prabha Shankar Upadhyay were welcomed, while Chapter Convenor Padam Khatri shared updates on upcoming plans and the previous year's financial details. New members Govardhan Lal Kumawat, Shravan Kumar Jain, and Ramji Lal Meena were formally inducted with garlands by Co-Convenor Hanuman Sharma. Mr. Upadhyay presented excerpts from his book *Invisible Idiot*, and member Chandrashekhar Joshi recited his new poems.

Environmentalist and nature guide Advocate Lekhraj Singh Rathore joined the Chapter as a General Member, bringing his active social engagement and support to further INTACH's initiatives.

UDAIPUR

On 10 July, the Heritage Club of St. Anthony's Senior Secondary School, Goverdhan Vilas, celebrated Guru Purnima, honoring the traditional guru-shishya heritage. Students presented speeches, songs, and poems, fostering cultural pride and expressing gratitude to teachers for their guidance and wisdom.

On 11 July, INTACH Heritage Club students of St. Anthony School, Hiran Magri, Udaipur, marked Guru Purnima with a special skit showcasing the traditional guru-shishya parampara, alongside speeches and dance performances. The event highlighted the significance of gurus in preserving heritage and passing knowledge across generations.

On 12 July, Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya, under the INTACH Heritage Club, observed World Population Day. A debate competition engaged students of Classes 9 and 10 on themes such as "Education is the most effective means of population control" and "Population is the biggest threat to sustainable development." Teachers and judges appreciated the students' participation, emphasizing awareness and critical thinking on population and sustainability issues.

On 19 July, INTACH Heritage Club students of Rockwoods High School visited the Ahad Museum, Udaipur. The museum displayed Rajasthan's royal artifacts, weapons, paintings, and costumes, offering students an engaging insight into the Mewar dynasty and inspiring greater interest in heritage and culture.

On 23 July, Rockwoods High School students celebrated Hariyali Amavasya by sharing green-themed food items and planting micro-greens at home. The initiative promoted environmental responsibility and eco-friendly habits, blending tradition with action to honor nature.

On 24 July, Seedling School observed Hariyali Amavasya with a special Grade VIII assembly and a lively fair. The event featured stalls with traditional crafts,

organic products, and eco-friendly items, alongside cultural performances highlighting the historical and festive significance of the day.

On 7 August, the INTACH Heritage Club of Maharana Mewar Public School held its Investiture Ceremony. The event, graced by Shri. Gaurav Singhvi (Convenor, INTACH Udaipur) and other distinguished members celebrated the club being adjudged No. 1 in the country for the fourth consecutive year. Awards included the Heritage Beacon for the club and Club Incharge Ms. Pratima Paliwal, and Best Heritage Club Student for Naman Mukesh Mehta. Newly elected club members received sashes, followed by cultural performances, shlok path, poetry recitation, dance, group song, and prize distributions. Motivational addresses were delivered by Shri. Gaurav Singhvi and Shri. Satish Sharma, with blessings from Director Shri. S.K. Sharma.

On 12 August, MMPS marked World Elephant Day with educational activities under INTACH Heritage Club, including a documentary for Grades I-IV, a themed PowerPoint presentation, and an expert talk by Shri. Satish Kumar Sharma for Grade IX, fostering awareness about elephant conservation and ecological balance.

On 21 August, Maharana Mewar Vidya Mandir hosted the INTACH Investiture Ceremony for newly elected club members. The event featured guidance and motivational talks by Prof. Maheep Bhatnagar and Shri. Gaurav Singhvi, emphasizing heritage preservation and enhancing club initiatives, concluding with the Principal's vote of thanks.



Maharana Mewar Public School marked World Elephant Day under the aegis of the INTACH Heritage Club – Udaipur Chapter

The students of Rockwoods International School recently embarked on an enriching journey into India's cultural tapestry, engaging in hands-on art and textile heritage experiences. In one inspiring session organized by Team Sadhna, an enterprise dedicated to empowering rural women through traditional crafts, students explored the beauty and significance of handloom work. They examined various cloth materials, learned about production processes, and crafted artwork on jute fabric using richly colored woolen threads. The session emphasized the importance of supporting local artisans and sustaining livelihoods through traditional crafts, sparking meaningful dialogue and curiosity among students.

The adventure continued at Shilpgram, where students immersed themselves in the cultural heartland of Rajasthan. They explored mud-and-thatch huts that exemplify living heritage, watched evocative puppet performances bringing folk narratives to life, and experimented with vegetable printing and tie-dye painting on handkerchiefs. These activities provided joyful, interactive engagement with the region's vibrant traditions, enhancing their understanding and appreciation of Rajasthan's culture.

At Verve – The School of Design & Vastu, under the guidance of Convener Gaurav Singhvi, 29 handwritten books on Bhakti and Shrinath Ji were digitized, preserving invaluable heritage texts for future generations. This project allowed students to witness the process of safeguarding cultural knowledge through modern technology.



Digitization of 29 hand written books – Udaipur Chapter

On 28 August, Rockwoods High School, Udaipur, hosted the INTACH National Heritage Quiz 2025-26, with 108 students from 17 schools participating. Quizmasters, Satish Sharma and Vishnu Sharma posed thought-provoking questions on India's cultural and natural heritage. Certificates were given to all participants, and the top team from Seedling School, Ginni Dalal and Surya Sharma, will advance to the state-level round. The event was attended by INTACH officials and sponsored by Wonder Cement.

On 29 August, INTACH Udaipur conducted a Capacity Building Programme on Tie and Dye to revive the traditional Bandhani art. Participants learned tying techniques and created scarves, dupattas, and handkerchiefs using natural materials under the guidance of Dr. Dolly Mogra, Lt. Dr. Simple Jain, and Convener, Gaurav Singhvi. The programme promoted skill development while preserving India's textile heritage.



Local participation in Capacity Building Programme on Tie and Dye





Interactive sessions and demonstrations on Katputli Kala: Conserve Rajasthan's Puppetry Heritage – Udaipur Chapter

On 30 August, INTACH Udaipur organized *Katputli Kala: Conserve Rajasthan's Puppetry Heritage* to raise awareness about traditional puppetry. Expert speakers explained its historical significance and techniques to 45 participants through interactive sessions and demonstrations, encouraging the preservation of Rajasthan's rich puppetry tradition.

On 13 September, INTACH Udaipur organized a one-day programme on Rural Tourism for Conserving Cultural Heritage under the guidance of Convener, Gaurav Singhvi. Expert speakers Dr. Dolly Mogra and Lt. Dr. Simple Jain engaged 50 participants in discussions and exercises on eco- and rural tourism, heritage conservation, traditional arts, and community participation. The sessions emphasized inclusive tourism, women's empowerment, and sustainable development, successfully connecting cultural preservation with grassroots engagement.

On 13 September, students welcomed Ruma Devi, the acclaimed handicraft designer and social worker from Barmer, Rajasthan, and recipient of the Nari Shakti Puraskar 2018. Nearly thirty girls participated in the program, discussing women empowerment and ways to protect traditional textiles. Ruma Devi also sang traditional folk songs alongside her team, providing an authentic, hands-on cultural experience that left a lasting impression on the students.

On 15 September, the school hosted the Museum on Wheels, a traveling exhibition showcasing sculptures from ancient India,

Egypt, Syria, Greece, and Rome. Organized in collaboration with the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, Mumbai, the Rotary Club Meera, and Yuva Udaipur, the exhibition allowed students to explore diverse civilizations within the school campus. Under the guidance of Ms. Dristi Rao, in-charge of INTACH, students gained a deeper understanding of history and heritage through this immersive experience.

From 22–24 September, Convener Gaurav Singhvi attended a workshop in Aarhus, Denmark, alongside Rajasthan Government delegates, focusing on international collaboration in heritage and design. He was also invited to present a paper at the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Conference in City Blues, Denmark, on "Cultural Heritage as a Vital Pillar for Successful Development of Nature-Based Solutions," highlighting India's heritage practices in a global context.

On 10 October, the Udaipur Convener visited INTACH Delhi Headquarters, meeting Chairman INTACH, Shri Ashok Singh Thakur, Member Secretary Shri Ravindra Singh, (IAS Retd) and other senior officials. Strategic discussions were held on collaborative initiatives and future planning for the Udaipur Chapter. Following this, INTACH Udaipur received a formal tie-up letter from Denmark's City Blue for collaboration with its Natural Heritage Division.

On 11 October, the Chapter conducted a one-day Workshop on the Reuse of Textile Waste under Convener Gaurav Singhvi. Experts Dr. Dolly Mogra and Lt. Dr. Simple



INTACH Chairman, Shri Ashok Singh Thakur with Udaipur Chapter Convener, Gaurav Singhvi holding the INTACH Virasat Newsletter



Products from Workshop on Reuse of Textile Waste

Jain guided participants in creating eco-friendly products such as foot mats from old sarees and wool, and reusable bags. The hands-on workshop promoted sustainable practices while creatively linking heritage and environmental consciousness.

Tamil Nadu

✓ CHENNAI

Mrs. Sujatha Shankar, Convener, Chennai Chapter, GC Member set the tone for heritage awareness with her keynote address at SRM School of Architecture and Interior Design, Kattankulathur. The Faculty



Madras Day celebrations by the Chennai Chapter

Development Program, held on 4 August, focused on 'Honouring Madras – The Essential Role of Heritage Conservation,' highlighting the city's rich architectural and cultural legacy. Celebrating a century of design, she explored the evolution of Madras Art Deco Architecture at Chennai International Centre, Tagore Auditorium, R.A. Puram. On 16 August, the talk reflected on how Art Deco, which emerged internationally in 1925, found a unique expression in Chennai and influenced its urban aesthetics over the decades.

Traditional games came alive during the public program "Madras to Madrid," organized in collaboration with Kreedha. Vinita Sidhartha led a session on 20 August, tracing the journey of the Dahdi game, also known as Nine Men's Morris, from India to Spain, while a replica of the Spanish Book of Games allowed participants to interact directly with the historic manuscript.

The city's young minds engaged enthusiastically in the Chennai round of the 'India Heritage Quiz 2025,' held at Sri Sankara Vidyashramam School, Thiruvannamiyur, on 23 August. Conducted by senior INTACH member Ms. Susha Natraj, the quiz saw 66 teams from 20 schools competing. The finalists included AMM School, DAV Boys School, PSBB Millennium School, Sri Sankara Senior Secondary School, and Sri Sankara Vidyalaya, Urapakkam, with Anirudh Prem and Prabhav Nandan R. of PSBB Millennium School emerging victorious, advancing to the Tamil Nadu State Finals.

A unique 'Heritage Training Workshop' designed exclusively for school teachers was conducted by INTACH in collaboration



Heritage Training Workshop for Teachers – Chennai Chapter

with Kreedha on 30 August. More than 40 teachers participated, exploring ways to integrate traditional games into classroom teaching. Vinita Sidhartha emphasized how these games can enhance learning in subjects like mathematics, science, and social studies, while simultaneously offering insights into India's history and culture. Participants also learned how games can develop mental calculation, planning, and problem-solving skills, making education both engaging and culturally rich.

The Chapter marked the Madras Day Celebrations at SAVEETHA College of Architecture and Interior Design, Poonamallee, where Mrs. Sujatha Shankar, Convenor of INTACH Chennai Chapter, was the Chief Guest. She addressed students on the heritage of Madras and screened the documentary film, "Story of Madras – The First City of Modern India," narrated by S. Muthiah and directed by her. The film highlighted the city's pioneering contributions in education, railways, medicine, municipal governance, and the Survey of India, while showcasing Madras' built heritage and its lasting impact on the subcontinent.

On 29 October, the Chapter, in collaboration with M.Rm.Rm. Cultural Foundation, hosted a talk and exhibition on the revival of Chettinad crafts, focusing on Kottan Palm Leaf Basketry. Mrs. Visalakshi Ramaswamy shared her work documenting, preserving, and reviving Chettinad's craft heritage, including training artisans, publishing books, sustaining traditional weaves and tiles, and curating exhibitions, earning recognition such as the UNESCO Seal of Excellence and multiple national awards.

COIMBATORE

Foreign exchange students from Germany were given an immersive introduction to Coimbatore's heritage through a special Heritage Walk organized by INTACH Coimbatore Chapter in association with PSG Institute of Management. Conducted on 9 September, the walk aimed to provide students with a rich understanding of the city's history, culture, and traditional practices.

The tour began at the historic CSI All Souls' Church, built in 1872, where the priest welcomed the 15 students and shared a brief interactive address. Following this, Shri. S. Srinivasan, Dean of PSG Institute of Management, and Shri. Jaganathan S, Convenor, INTACH Coimbatore, spoke to the group before historian Shri. C.R. Elangovan guided them through the city's heritage landmarks, including the Koniyan Temple, Athar Jamad Mosque, and the Chithirai Chavadi check dam.



Special heritage walk for foreign students – Coimbatore Chapter



Special heritage walk for foreign students – Coimbatore Chapter



At Chithirai Chavadi, the students learned about the Chola-era water management system and its critical role in supporting agriculture and sustaining the region's ecosystems. The walk also highlighted man-made lakes, the flow of the Noyyal River, migratory birds, and the strategic planning behind these ancient structures. Graphical representations of the water ecosystem helped students understand how interconnected tanks and check dams ensure sustainable water supply and prevent flooding.

A spontaneous and memorable moment occurred when a local farmer invited the group to his farmhouse for refreshments, offering the students a heartfelt experience of Indian hospitality. The German students expressed their admiration for Coimbatore's green heritage and found the entire experience both educational and deeply enriching.

✓ NAGERCOIL

On 6 September, the Chapter visited Kanyakumari to explore its rich heritage, beginning with the South Travancore Lines—an 18th-century fortification built by King Marthanda Varma to protect Nanjil Nadu. Constructed from calcareous sandstone carved into brick-like blocks, the walls showcased remarkable craftsmanship, though erosion and vegetation now threaten their preservation. The visit offered participants a firsthand experience of the site's historical and architectural significance, emphasizing the need for conservation and potential development of a heritage walkway for future visitors.

On 6 September, the Chapter visited the Kanyakumari Government Museum, a multi-disciplinary institution established in 1991 that showcases the region's rich heritage. The museum houses collections spanning archaeology, anthropology, history, numismatics, geology, zoology, botany, and local culture, including Paleolithic tools, a wooden temple car from Swamithoppu, Travancore royal artifacts, British and Indian coins, stuffed birds and marine specimens, and household objects from Nanjil-Nadu. INTACH members explored the exhibits



Visit to Guhanatheeswarar Temple, Kanyakimari – Nagercoil Chapter



Members at Kanyakumari Government Museum – Nagercoil Chapter

and offered suggestions for enhancing the museum experience, gaining a deeper appreciation of Kanyakumari's cultural and natural legacy.

Members of the Chapter, led by Convenor, Anitha Natarajan and including Dr. Arunachalam, Mrs. Prema Arunachalam, Shri. Chenthee Natarajan, and others, visited the Arulmigu Guhanatheeswarar Temple near Kanyakumari Railway Station to explore its archaeological, historical, and social significance. The visit, held on 6 September, included insights from temple epigraphist Shri. Chenthee Natarajan, who explained the temple's inscriptions dating back to the 10th-11th centuries during the reigns of the Chozha kings such as Rajaraja I, Rajendra I & II, and Rajathirajan I. The records detail endowments of perpetual lamps, gifts of sheep, and establishment of water

structures (Thanneer Pandal), highlighting the temple's central role in the religious, social, and economic life of the region over centuries.

On 6 September the Chapter visited the historic Shrine of Our Lady of Ransom Church in Kanyakumari, exploring its rich cultural and religious heritage. The church traces its origins to the Our Lady of Delights Grotto, where St. Francis Xavier is said to have worshiped in 1542, and evolved into the present Gothic-style structure, whose foundation stone was laid in 1900 by Rev. Fr. John Consolvez. The church, dedicated to AlangaraUpakara Matha, combines elements of Roman art and ancient Gothic architecture, with symbolic dimensions reflecting the beads of the Holy Rosary. An intriguing feature is the flag mast, donated in 1917 by a merchant from Tuticorin, which was miraculously transported and erected

after divine guidance led a stonecutter to locate a suitable stone for its installation. The church continues to serve as a vibrant center of faith, deeply embedded in the history and devotion of the Kanyakumari community.

SALEM

The Chapter conducted the Heritage Quiz 2025 at Sri Vidya Mandir School Auditorium on 28 August, with 102 students from 11 schools participating. Dr. Yuvashri, a noted advocate for children's welfare, was the chief guest and also spoke on traditional health practices. After several rounds to identify the top four teams, the final oral rounds ended in a tie between two teams, which was resolved through a rapid-fire round. The winning team from Sri Vidhya Bharathi M.H.S.S., Salem, qualified for the state rounds. Mementos were presented to the chief guest, participating schools, winners, runners-up, and finalists.

Telangana

RANGAREDDY

The INTACH Ranga Reddy District Chapter was inaugurated at JBR Architecture College, Moinabad, under the theme 'Preserving the Past and Inspiring the Future.' Chief Guest Shri Ashok Singh Thakur, Chairman, INTACH, urged youth to actively protect India's heritage. As part of the ceremony, Shri Ashok Singh Thakur, Chairman, INTACH, also inaugurated a special architectural documentation



Chairman INTACH, Shri Ashok Singh Thakur, inaugurating Architectural Documentation Exhibition – Ranga Reddy Chapter

exhibition prepared by the students of JBR Architecture College. Guests of honour included Sajjad Shahid, Prof. Arjun Rao Kuthadi, and Dr. Mangari Rajender, while the event was presided over by Er. Veda Kumar Manikonda and Prof. Ar. J. Gayatri, Convenor of the district Chapter. Prof. Gayatri outlined a year-long plan for community engagement through heritage walks and educational initiatives, and Er. Veda Kumar emphasized expanding INTACH's activities across Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Maharashtra. The launch marks a significant step in safeguarding and celebrating Ranga Reddy's rich cultural and archaeological legacy.

WARANGAL

On 10 July, the Chapter organized a field visit for graduate students to Jakaram temples, Ramappa, and Thousand Pillar Temple, which are in a dilapidated condition. Prof. Deva Pratap, Co-convenor, explained the construction technologies and methods employed by the Kakatiya rulers, including their contributions to irrigation and regional development.

On 13 August, the Chapter conducted the National Heritage Quiz 2025 for high school students from Hanamkonda city. The event saw participation from 120 students (60 teams) from Masterji High School, Gurukul, Vikas High School, Thushara High School, Raman School, and Adarsha High School. Students from Masterji High School emerged as winners.



Lighting a lamp by the chief guest Dr Yuvashri during National Heritage Quiz Competition – Salem Chapter

From 8 to 17 October, INTACH Warangal Chapter sponsored and actively participated in the World Heritage Volunteer (WHV) Camp 2025 at the UNESCO -inscribed Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple, Palampet, Mulug District, organized by the Kakatiya Heritage Trust. The camp hosted 39 volunteers (36 from across India and 3 from Iran) from diverse fields such as architecture, civil engineering, tourism, history, archaeology, and geology. The ten-day program included yoga, lectures, demonstrations, fieldwork, cultural activities, and monument cleaning. Experts from INTACH, NIT Warangal, Kakatiya University, ASI, ICOMOS, and the Telangana Heritage Department shared knowledge on restoration techniques, construction methods, sustainable materials, civil engineering aspects, and documentation of heritage structures.

On 15 October, Smt. Dr. D. Anasuya Seethakka, Telangana Minister, addressed the volunteers on the Kakatiyas' contributions to the region, while Prof. Y. L. Srinivas, Vice-Chancellor of Sammakka-



Chairman, INTACH, Shri Ashok Singh Thakur, inaugurating the Ranga Reddy Chapter as the Chief Guest of the event



Sarakka Central Tribal University, spoke about heritage conservation. The program successfully enhanced technical skills, interdisciplinary knowledge, and volunteer commitment among participants.

The WHV Camp concluded with a valedictory function on 18 October 2025 at Ramappa Temple. Chief Guest Sri M. Ratan, IPS (Retd.), Former DGP of Andhra Pradesh, addressed the volunteers on the importance of public participation in heritage conservation. Prof. M. Pandu Ranga Rao presided over the function and certificates and mementos were distributed to all participants, marking the successful completion of the camp.

Tripura

INTACH, in collaboration with the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council, organized a sapling plantation programme on the occasion of World Environment Day, 5 June 2025. Following this, a study tour with research scholars was conducted to Pilak, a renowned Hindu-Buddhist archaeological site dating from the 8th to 12th centuries, where museum authorities facilitated inspection of terracotta sculptures for a planned pictorial book on Tripura's archaeological heritage. Later, the 117th birth anniversary of Maharaja Bir Bikram Manikya Bahadur was celebrated on 18 August, marked by the release of a special postal cover by Shri Joseph Lalrinsailova, Post Master General (N.E.-1 Region), in the presence of the royal family and other dignitaries. The occasion also featured a two-day photo exhibition showcasing rare photographs, the Maharaja's military uniform, and medieval weapons and armor of the



Inauguration of the Circle Level Philately Exhibition, TRIPEX-2025 – Tripura Chapter

Manikya dynasty, along with felicitation of three eminent personalities, a souvenir stall, and the release of a commemorative book by INTACH member Boyar.

The Circle Level Philately Exhibition, TRIPEX-2025, was inaugurated on 29 October 2025 at Nazrul Kalakchetra, Agartala, by Maharaj Kumari Pragya Debbarman, Convenor, INTACH Tripura Chapter. The exhibition aimed to promote stamp collecting—the “King of Hobbies”—and showcased the rich heritage and culture depicted on postage stamps, establishing TRIPEX-2025 as a key platform for preserving and promoting the educational and historical value of philately in the region.

Uttar Pradesh

AYODHYA

The Chapter organized the Heritage Quiz at JB Academy, Faizabad, on August 24, under the guidance of Ms. Anuja Srivastava. A total of 150 students from 15 schools, participated in 75 teams. Dr. Indroneel Banerjee served as the quiz master, and chapter members acted as invigilators during the written round, where Army Public School secured first place, followed by JB Academy, Sunbeam School, and Avadh International School. During the oral rounds, Mrs. Manjula Jhunjunwala emphasized the importance of heritage awareness for students at regional and national levels. Army Public School emerged as the overall winner, Avadh International was runner-up, and JB Academy and Sunbeam received consolation prizes. Trophies, certificates, and books were distributed, and all participants were recognized for



Participation of students for INTACH Heritage Quiz at JB Academy – Ayodhya Chapter



A two-day workshop on *Our Living Heritage: The Endangered Chatoliya Art* – Ayodhya Chapter

their involvement. Ms. Anahita Koshur concluded the event with a vote of thanks, and the day ended with a formal lunch fostering camaraderie among guests and INTACH members.

A two-day workshop on *Our Living Heritage: The Endangered Chatoliya Art*, organized by INTACH HECS in collaboration with the Ayodhya Chapter, was conducted at JB Academy Multipurpose Hall on 18 and 20 August. The workshop aimed to revive the fading craft of Chatoliya, particularly the traditional art of making Kathari from worn-out clothes. Mrs. Sudha Mishra highlighted the eco-friendly and practical aspects of this craft, while resource person Mrs. Kusum Pandey provided hands-on training to the participants. A total of 77 students from JB Academy, Yash Vidya Mandir, Bhavdiya Public School, Udaya Public School, and Takshila Academy actively participated. The workshop concluded with an exhibition of the Chatoliya created by



Celebrating Birth Anniversary of Maharaja Bir Bikram Manikya Bahadur – Tripura Chapter



Participants during the walk organized on Jain Heritage Walk – Ayodhya Chapter



Enthusiastic participation during the Jain Heritage Walk – Ayodhya Chapter

students and the distribution of certificates to all participants.

On 28 September, under the joint auspices of the Chapter and Yash Paka Limited, social worker and artist Mithilesh Dubey and his team presented the puppet play *Mohan Se Mahatma* at the JBA auditorium in Ayodhya, depicting Mahatma Gandhi's journey from an ordinary man to the Father of the Nation. The performance highlighted key moments of Gandhi's life, including his early years, transformation in South Africa, the Champaran incident, and his commitment to truth and non-violence. Organized under the Awadh Kala Utsav by the Chapter, the event aimed to introduce young audiences to the art of puppetry while inspiring them with Gandhi's values of determination, humanism, and consistency in action. The program, guided by Principal VK Joshi and Convenor Manjula Jhunjunwala, was warmly appreciated by INTACH members, school principals, teachers, students, parents, and other dignitaries.

On 9 November, a Jain Heritage Walk was successfully organized in Ayodhya, with 50 enthusiastic participants. The

walk explored the rich Jain heritage of the city, visiting temples associated with the five Tirthankaras born in Ayodhya—Lord Rishabhdev (Adinath), Lord Ajitnath, Lord Abhinandannath, Lord Sumatinath, and Lord Anantnath—where guides provided detailed insights into their history, architecture, religious significance, and major events. The darshan at each temple was conducted in a peaceful and orderly manner, and the walk concluded at the Dwarkadhish Temple, followed by a final briefing, information on future heritage activities. The event was highly appreciated for its smooth coordination, informative explanations, and meaningful cultural and spiritual engagement, with participants expressing enthusiasm for similar walks in the future.

✓ GORAKHPUR

The Gorakhpur city round of the INTACH Heritage Quiz was conducted on 24 August at Mahatma Gandhi Inter College, Gorakhpur. The event saw participation from 92 students representing 9 schools. The program began with a welcome address by Achintyalahiri, Co-convenor, followed by an informative lecture from Dr. Ravindra Anand, Head, History Department at St. Andrews Post Graduate College, who spoke about the importance of heritage, distinguishing between tangible and intangible heritage, and emphasizing the role of younger generations in its preservation. The written round involved 45 teams, with the top four teams coming from H.P. Children's Academy and Ratna



Enthusiastic participation of students for the City Round of Heritage Quiz – Gorakhpur Chapter

Memorial Public School. The winners were decided through an oral round, in which the team from H.P. Children's Academy emerged victorious. INTACH members, school teachers, and parents attended the event and appreciated efforts in raising heritage awareness among students.

INTACH Conservation Institute, Lucknow, in collaboration with the Chapter, organized a document conservation workshop on 20 September at the Home Science Department, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gorakhpur University. Librarians from major universities, old colleges, and the Nagar Nigam, along with INTACH members and PhD students, actively participated. Shri. Dharmendra Mishra, Director, ICI Lucknow, explained common defects in documents, their causes, and the remedial measures required for preservation. Participants found the workshop highly beneficial for maintaining library collections. The session concluded with a screening of an INTACH documentary, and Convenor M.P. Kandoi thanked everyone for contributing to the success of the event.

✓ JHANSI

The Chapter meeting on 2 August began with a welcome to members and the felicitation of INTACH GC Member Shri Neelkamal Maheshwari by Convenor Mr. Rajendra Kumar Rai. Members introduced themselves, and the Convenor shared his vision for upcoming activities. Discussions focused on preserving the neglected fort near Bijauli pond and deteriorating



Members and a GC Member at the Chapter meeting – Jhansi Chapter



During inauguration of National Heritage Quiz Contest – Jhansi Chapter

structures like Ali Gol Khidki and Sainir Darwaza. Shri. Maheshwari suggested adopting a local monument under INTACH's 'Adopt a Monument' initiative and organizing an exhibition of 40 years of INTACH's work. The Executive Committee and a PR & Media Cell were announced, and a two-minute silence was observed for deceased members.

The INTACH National Heritage Quiz Contest was successfully held in Jhansi on 8 October at the State Museum under the INTACH Jhansi Chapter. Participants received certificates and gifts, and Shri Neelkamal Maheshwari announced that the winning team would advance to the Lucknow round, with a chance to compete nationally in Delhi. Guests, including Dr. Sameer Dewan, Dr. Manoj Kumar Gautam, Dr. Nitish Saxena, and Dr. Pradeep Tiwari, shared insights on archaeology, tourism, heritage conservation, and Bundeli art. Convenor RK Rai announced the winners: Cathedral College (first prize), Rani Lakshmibai Public School (second), and Blue Bells Public School (third).

✓ LALITPUR

The Heritage Quiz 2025 City Round, organized by the INTACH Lalitpur Chapter,

concluded at the Government Girls Inter College Auditorium with 92 students from nine schools participating. In the oral round, the team of Srishti Singh and Bhavya Pathak from PM Shri Kendriya Vidyalaya secured first place. The event was graced by Chief Guest GGIC Principal Anjana Verma, along with INTACH Convenor Santosh Kumar Sharma, Program Coordinator and artist O.P. Birthare, Prerna Sharma, Nupur Srivastava, Rohit Tiwari, and several students and teachers.



Participants and Winners for the Heritage Quiz 2025 City Round – Lalitpur Chapter



Educators during a heritage walk to the historical places of the city – Lucknow Chapter

✓ LUCKNOW

On April 10, the Chapter organized a heritage walk for 70 educators from Vasant Valley School, New Delhi, at the Kaiserbagh Heritage Complex. The walk covered Chhatar Manzil, Kothi Farhat Baksh, Jarnail Kothi, Gulistan-e-Iram, Darshan Vilas, Kasrul-Sultan, the tombs of Nawab Saadat Ali Khan and Khurshid Zaadi, Neil Gate, Gol Darwaza, and Safed Baradari. Through storytelling and historical interpretation, participants experienced the rich Ganga-Jamuni Tehzeeb of Lucknow, gaining a deeper understanding of its architectural and cultural heritage.

To mark World Heritage Day, the Chapter conducted a heritage walk for undergraduate students of KhunKhunji Girls' PG College. Led by Shashank and accompanied by Dr. Neetu Agarwal, Dr. Parul Singh, and Dr. Vijeta Dixit, the students explored the Kaiserbagh Heritage



A heritage walk for undergraduate students – Lucknow Chapter



A panel discussion on 'From Palaces to People: Unravelling the Nawabi Literature of Awadh' – INTACH Chairman, Shri Ashok Singh Thakur being facilitated – Lucknow Chapter

Complex, culminating at Safed Baradari. The walk highlighted the architectural grandeur of the Nawabs of Awadh and key sites related to the 1857 uprising. Engaging anecdotes and vivid storytelling helped students connect with history, fostering cultural sensitivity and awareness of heritage preservation.

The Chapter launched a bimonthly web talk series titled *“Interlacing Histories: Exploring the Heritage of Lucknow”*, with its first session on May 10, 2025. Dr. P.C. Sarkar, Former Principal Scientist, ICAR and a noted author on Lucknow, spoke on *“The Forgotten Heritage of Lucknow: Some Architectural Marvels Lost in Time”* in a Zoom session organized with the support of the Chapters Division, INTACH. He highlighted the hybrid architectural styles of Lucknow, blending French, Islamic, British, and Hindustani influences, and discussed several lost or decaying structures, including Machi Bhavan, Fort Jalalabad, Moti Mahal, Mermaid Gate, Musa Bagh, Sunehri Burj, Aishbagh, and Rennie’s Bridge. The session drew heritage enthusiasts from diverse fields such as education, filmmaking, journalism, archaeology, museum curation, and the arts.

The Chapter also held its quarterly meeting on 17 May, to plan Chapter activities for the period from July to September. More than



INTACH Chairman, Shri Ashok Singh Thakur with participants for the panel discussion 'From Palaces to People: Unravelling the Nawabi Literature of Awadh' – Lucknow Chapter

15 members attended the meeting, which began with introductions, followed by a discussion of upcoming events, initiatives, and strategies for heritage awareness and preservation in the region.

The Chapter organized an engaging panel discussion on *‘From Palaces to People: Unravelling the Nawabi Literature of Awadh’* on 20 September at Avadh Girls’ Degree College, Lucknow. The panel featured eminent anthropologist Prof. Nadeem Hasnain, an authority on Awadhi culture, and celebrated dastango Dr. Himanshu Bajpai, with literary critic Kanak Rekha Chauhan moderating. The discussion explored the evolution of Nawabi literature in Awadh, highlighting its Persian poetic roots, mehfil culture, and the rich Ganga-Jamuni Tehzeeb. Prof. Hasnain emphasized cultural nostalgia as vital for heritage preservation, while

Dr. Bajpai discussed literature’s role in expressing love, loss, and power. Kanak Rekha Chauhan noted the incorporation of music, drama, and Lucknow’s distinctive Urdu poetry traditions, and the post-1857 democratization of literature.

Shri Ashok Singh Thakur, Chairman, INTACH New Delhi, graced the event as Chief Guest, underscoring the importance of heritage in shaping Awadh’s identity and reaffirming INTACH’s commitment to preserving monuments, traditions, and cultural education. The event attracted scholars, heritage enthusiasts, faculty, and students, concluding with an interactive Q&A session that inspired participants to rediscover and engage with Awadh’s literary heritage.

The Chapter organized the City Final of the National Heritage Quiz 2025 on 30



August at La Martiniere College, Lucknow, with 82 contestants in 41 teams from 21 schools. The finalist teams included students from La Martiniere College, City Montessori School, Study Hall School, and Army Public School, Nehru Road, with a second team from La Martiniere College receiving an honourable mention.

The quiz featured six rounds covering local, state, and national heritage. Utkarsh Vishwakarma and Shreyasi Chakraborty of Army Public School, guided by Ms. Babita Rakesh, won first prize, while Pulkrit Deshwal and Samridhi Bajpai of Study Hall School, guided by Ms. Priya Kalsi, were runners-up. Prizes were presented by Chief Guest Shri. Mukesh Meshram, Principal Secretary, Tourism and Culture, along with Shri. Gary Dominic Everett, Principal, La Martiniere College, the quiz masters, and INTACH members including Dr. Neetu Agarwal (Convenor) and Shri. Dhanunjay Varshney (Co-Convenor).

MAHOBA

INTACH Mahoba Chapter organized an Alha Singing Competition on 11 August, at the Kajli Mahotsav fair grounds, featuring performances by Diksha and Pratiksha.

On 14 August, a public lecture on Indian heritage and its conservation was held at the same venue. INTACH members addressed the visitors and highlighted the importance of preserving Indian heritage.

MEERUT

The Chapter organized a programme on 26 July to honor and commemorate the Kargil martyrs at Rose Mary Institute, Meerut, where members paid floral tributes and observed a moment of silence. Lt. Col. A.D. Tyagi shared personal memories of the Kargil War, while Chief Guests Dr. Kiran Singh, A.K. Johri, and Dr. Ishwar Chand Gambhir recited poems dedicated to the martyrs. The event presided over by Dr. R.K. Bhatnagar and conducted by Co-Convenor A.K. Johri, encouraged the public to continue showing respect to soldiers in everyday life.

The Chapter also hosted a special dis-



Members at a programme to honor and commemorate the Kargil Martyrs – Meerut Chapter



Participants for a special discussion on the scientific basis of holistic health with a focus on spiritual well-being – Meerut Chapter

cussion on holistic health on 29 July with a focus on spiritual well-being at Ojas Gyan Kendra, Meerut, where Dr. Rahul Bansal delivered a two-hour lecture explaining the connection between spiritual and physical health and how spirituality can support coping with chronic illness and life challenges. The session included examples, visuals, and references to key books on spiritual health. The program, attended by INTACH members, was conducted by Mr. A.K. Johri, with Mr. A.K. Gandhi elaborating on the theme and Dr. R.K. Bhatnagar proposing the vote of thanks.

On 6 September, the Chapter organized a Teachers’ Honors Program at The Aryans Public School to commemorate Teachers’ Day. The event was conducted by Mr. A.K. Johri and presided over by Dr. R.K. Bhatnagar. Students, including Mr. Ashwani Gupta, expressed gratitude towards teachers through speeches, and Mr. Johri shared personal teaching experiences. The program concluded with blessings from Dr. Bhatnagar and a vote of thanks by Principal Mrs. Preeti Malhotra.

On 27 September, the Chapter celebrated the birth anniversary of Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh at the Veer Banda Bairagi Auditorium, Chaudhary Charan Singh University, in collaboration with the History Department students. The event featured speeches on Bhagat Singh’s life and revolutionary struggle by faculty and students, moderated by Mr. A.K. Johri. The program concluded with blessings and remarks from Dr. R.K. Bhatnagar, and students were encouraged to participate in future INTACH events.

The Chapter organized a Music Heritage Conservation Program on 21 September at Aangn Restaurant, Meerut Cantt, conducted by Mr. A.K. Johri, Co-Convenor. He highlighted the Persian and Mughal influences on Hindustani music, emphasizing its role in uniting people and preserving cultural identity. The program, presided over by Dr. R.K. Bhatnagar, IAS, featured performances of ragas, taals, khayals, and ghazals by artists including A.D. Tyagi, A.K. Goyal, K.P. Pradhan, Sardar M.M. Ahuja, D.P. Shrivastava, Sheel Vardhan Gupta, Deepak Sharma, Kiran



Celebration of birth anniversary of Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh – Meerut Chapter

Singh, Mr. Dewan, E.A.K. Saxena, A.K. Gandhi, and Mrs. Anupama Bhatnagar.

The Munshi Prem Chand Memorial Essay and Story Writing Competition, organized jointly by INTACH Meerut Chapter and the All India Kayastha Mahasabha at The Aryans Public School, Meerut, concluded with a prize distribution ceremony on 13 October. Certificates were awarded to all participants, while winners in all three categories received mementos. The event was conducted by Mr. A.K. Johri and presided over by Dr. R.K. Bhatnagar, with senior members and school officials sharing inspiring thoughts about Munshi Prem Chand.

INTACH Meerut Chapter celebrated World Student Day on 15 October, with senior students of Shri Ram Sahai Inter College, Meerut. The program was presided over by Dr. R.K. Bhatnagar, Senior IAS Officer, and featured speeches by students highlighting the life and contributions of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. Senior INTACH member Mr. G.C. Sharma spoke on the significance of the day, and the program was conducted by Mr. A.K. Johri, Co-Convener, INTACH Meerut Chapter. The event was attended by school authorities, INTACH members, and students.

As part of the heritage preservation initiative, the Munshi Premchand Memorial Essay and Story Writing Competition, held in July 2025 at Ismail Girls National Inter College, Meerut, concluded with a prize distribution ceremony on 29 October. Conducted by A.K. Johri and presided over by Dr. R.K. Bhatnagar, certificates and mementos were awarded to the winners

of the two categories. Shri A.K. Saxena, INTACH member and Program Coordinator, were also present, and the Principal and students were encouraged to become INTACH members, with the Principal receiving the Young INTACH magazine.

✓ PRAYAGRAJ (ALLAHABAD)

The Chapter hosted a lively Curtain Raiser at Auto Sales Building, Prayagraj, ahead of the Annual Heritage Quiz 2025, scheduled for 12 September at Delhi Public School, Naini. The Quiz, a flagship programme since 2014, aims to foster heritage awareness among school students through City, State, and National Level competitions. The Chapter has been organizing the event annually since 2016, with past City Level winners including Ms. Anvita and Anvisha Tiwari from Patanjali Rishikul School, and students representing the city at the National Level in 2021. This year, about 50 teams from leading CBSE schools have registered, reflecting growing enthusiasm for India's cultural heritage. The event will feature participation from heritage experts, educationists, and local dignitaries, who will share insights on preserving India's legacy. The Curtain Raiser successfully set the tone for the quiz, promising an engaging and enriching experience for students and participants alike.

The Chapter, in collaboration with Delhi Public School, hosted the City Level Annual Heritage Quiz 2025 at DPS, Naini, celebrating India's cultural heritage. Fifty-eight CBSE school teams participated, with 10 advancing to the oral rounds across six stages including written, oral, visual, and buzzer formats. Bhavya Pandey and

Ansh Yadav from Patanjali Rishikul School won first prize. The event began with an inaugural session featuring addresses by Colonel Parag Bhargava and Dr. Ritu Jaiswal on the role of youth in heritage conservation. Quiz Master Dr. Divya Barataria and judges ensured smooth rounds, while INTACH members and DPS staff coordinated the event, making it an inspiring celebration of India's cultural wealth.

The Chapter, in collaboration with Delhi Public School, Naini, successfully hosted the City Level INTACH Annual Heritage Quiz 2025. The series began with a Curtain Raiser on 9 September, featuring a short film on INTACH, heritage talks, and addresses by Colonel Parag Bhargava and Shri. Vaibhav Maini, highlighting the role of children as 'Torchbearers of Tradition.'

On 12 September, 58 teams from leading CBSE schools participated in the quiz at DPS Prayagraj. The competition began with a written elimination round, followed by presentations on Indian heritage, and progressed to oral and visual rounds conducted by Quiz Master Mrs. Divya Barataria. The five dynamic rounds blended oral, audio, visual, and buzzer formats, creating a lively and competitive atmosphere. With enthusiastic participation and engaging presentations, the INTACH Annual Heritage Quiz 2025 in Prayagraj celebrated India's cultural wealth while inspiring students to preserve and promote their heritage.

✓ VARANASI

The Chapter organized a series of heritage activities, beginning with a visit to Peshwa Haveli to view exhibitions on 40 years of INTACH and the Dwadash Madhav of Prayagraj, inspect the Haveli, and discuss its future use. This was followed by the closing ceremony of the three-day Calligraphy Workshop at Sunbeam School, Bhagwanpur, and a visit to Parshwanath Vidyapeeth to explore their collection and discuss plans for a museum. A talk on the history of coins in India by INTACH Chairman, Shri Ashok Singh Thakur was held at Diamond Hotel, followed by the inauguration of an art exhibition from a



Shri Ashok Singh Thakur, Chairman INTACH giving a lecture on 'History of the coins of India – Varanasi Chapter'

two-day art camp. The day concluded with a dinner hosted by the Varanasi Chapter, including informal discussions with the core group.

The Chapter organized a visit to Parshwanath 'Vidyapeeth, a centre for Jain Studies, on 3 August 2025. Members toured the 5-acre campus, viewed the collection intended for a proposed museum, and discussed professional guidance from INTACH Delhi. The highlight was a talk by Jain Muni and scholar Muni Shri Sanyam Ratna Ji Maharaj, followed by an interactive session. Shri Satish Chand Jain and Akhilesh Kumar shared insights on Vidyapith activities and Jain heritage. INTACH Varanasi Convenor, Ashok Kapoor proposed the vote of thanks. The Vidyapith later agreed to collaborate on the museum, with further discussions held with INTACH Chairman.

On National Handloom Day, INTACH Varanasi organized a student visit to a handloom factory, where Shri. Vipin Mehta of Mehta Silks demonstrated weaving

and discussed the importance of preserving handloom heritage. INTACH members Akhilesh Kumar, Ram Nihal Singh, and Convener, Ashok Kapoor guided and briefed the students, who also tried weaving on looms.

On 24 August, the Chapter organized a Heritage Walk for members and their families to explore the hidden treasures of the old city, focusing on the Twelve Adityas of Varanasi. Initiated by Shri Ashok Kapoor and briefed by Shri Akhilesh Kumar, the walk began at Swami Narayan Temple at 7:30 AM. Participants visited Kameshwar Mahadev Temple and Khakolkaditya (6th Aditya), Trilochan Mahadev Temple and Arunaditya (7th Aditya), with insights from temple priests. The walk concluded at Trilochan Ghat with a traditional Banaras breakfast at Ganga House, offering a spiritually enriching and culturally insightful experience.

On 8 August, under the Virasat Darshan Lecture Series, INTACH Varanasi Chapter hosted a lecture on "The History of Coins

in India" at the Diamond Hotel, Bhelupur. The keynote address was delivered by INTACH Chairman, Mr. Ashok Singh Thakur, tracing the evolution of Indian coinage from the 6 century BCE to the modern era and highlighting their cultural, economic, and artistic significance. Around 100 participants, including tourism professionals, heritage enthusiasts, and INTACH members, attended. The session, conducted by Jainendra Rai, included an engaging Q&A on coin conservation and numismatic heritage.

Ashok Kapoor, Convenor, Varanasi Chapter, and Mrs. Mudita Kapoor, architect and INTACH Life Member, served as judges for the "Know Your Heritage" session at Sunbeam School and Hostel, Sun City. Students of classes XI and XII, in 11 teams of four, made five-minute presentations on architectural heritage.

Shri Ashok Singh Thakur, INTACH Chairman, visited Peshwa Haveli, Rajghat, on 8 August, accompanied by INTACH Delhi and Varanasi Chapter members.



Participants for a visit to handloom factory on the occasion of National Handloom Day – Varanasi Chapter



Judges for the session on 'Know Your Heritage' at a School, Sun City – Varanasi Chapter

He viewed the exhibitions on “40 Years of INTACH” and “Dwadash Madhav of Prayagraj,” toured the building including the terrace, and joined a meeting where members suggested using the Haveli as a cultural hub and heritage centre rather than leasing it. Chairman, INTACH appreciated the inputs and assured that restoration would begin after the rainy season.

The Chapter, under Shri Ashok Kapoor, organized a tour to Gaya for over 40 members, assisted by senior members and professional guides Akhilesh Kumar, Jainendra Rai, and Dr. Ajay Singh. The group visited Bodh Gaya, exploring the Mahabodhi Temple, ancient railings from Ashoka’s period, and the Bodhi tree, while learning about Buddhist history and architecture. They then visited the Falgu riverfront and Vishnupad Temple, witnessing evening Aarti and studying the temple built by Ahilya Bai Holkar in 1787. The next day, the group explored the Barabar Caves, marveling at the polished interiors, inscriptions in Pali and Prakrit, and learning about the Ajivika sect supported by Emperor Ashoka. The tour combined historical insights, spiritual experiences, and cultural appreciation, with films on Buddhist history and the Ganga documentation project screened during travel, making it an enriching journey for all participants.

The Chapter, following the success of the film-based quiz, will host a new competition on October 15, 2025, limited to 12 schools. Prizes will be awarded to the top three teams, with two special prizes and consolation prizes for all participants. Trophies and certificates will be provided, and the host school will arrange the venue and refreshments.

The Chapter published *Kashi Ke Baarah Aditya* with support from INTACH’s Publication Division. Jointly authored by INTACH Life members Akhilesh Kumar and Jainendra Rai, the book is based on extensive research of all 12 Aditya sites, offering a valuable guide for domestic religious tourists and heritage enthusiasts. The book was formally released by Mahant Prof Vishambhar Nath Mishra, Padma Shri Dr Rajeshwar Acharya, Padma Shri Prof Ritwik Sanyal, and Padma Shri S Supakar,

hosted by Shri Shashank Singh, with coordination by Ashok Kapoor and support from Anil Keshari. The launch was attended by travel trade representatives, students, and INTACH members.

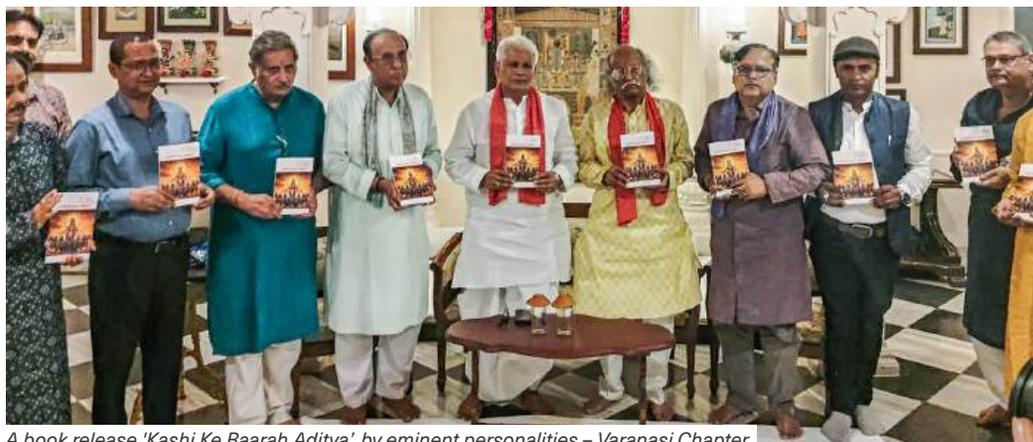
The Chapter organized multiple student engagement programs in October 2025. An exhibition on 40 years of INTACH was displayed at INTACH Peshwa Haveli, Rajaghat, with around 100 students from

10 member schools visiting over three days to create on-the-spot watercolor paintings. The artworks were later assessed, and winners received trophies, certificates, prizes, and books at an award ceremony on 16 October, attended by 97-year-old freedom fighter Shri Tilak Raj Kapoor.

The Chapter also conducted a competition based on the *Kan Kan Mein Ram* film at Seth M.R. Jaipuria School, involving teams



INTACH Chairman, Shri Ashok Singh Thakur visit to Peshwa Haveli – Varanasi Chapter



A book release 'Kashi Ke Baarah Aditya', by eminent personalities – Varanasi Chapter



A visit to Bodhgaya and Barabar Caves by a group of members – Varanasi Chapter



from 11 schools. A unique judging system ensured transparency, and all participants received prizes, trophies, certificates, and refreshments.

Additionally, students from Sunbeam School Moghulserai visited the Man Mahal Virtual Museum and Observatory under the “Know Your Heritage” program. Dr. Sandhya Vishwakarma guided the students through displays on Banaras’ crafts, handlooms, literature, and music, with more such heritage visits planned in the coming days.

INTACH Varanasi Chapter celebrated Dev Deepawali at INTACH Peshwa Haveli, Rajaghat on 5 November 5 coinciding with Kartik Purnima. The event featured traditional oil diyas across the building, complemented by electric illuminations on the ghats and structures. Akhilesh Kumar, INTACH Life member and Govt-approved Tourist Guide, coordinated the arrangements with Convenor, Ashok Kapoor. A Shehnai recital was held at the Baara Dari, and Ganga Aarti was conducted at the ghat with support from INTACH member, Shri Shadanan Pathak.

Uttarakhand

✓ MUSSOORIE

The Mussoorie Sub-Chapter held its Annual Meeting for 2024–2025 on 19 July at The Fern Brentwood Resort, Mussoorie, attended both in person and online by members and local guests. Discussions focused on upcoming activities, future objectives, and member suggestions, alongside presentations including a clip on the Selku Mela by Ms. Stuti Panwar and a folk ritual film from Garhwal by student Vaishnavi Rawat. In August, the chapter organized two online competitions: a one-minute REEL on the Bhadrak Mela, judged by filmmaker Mrs. Sanyukta Sharma, won by Nisba of Sanatan Dharm Girls Intercollege, and a Hindi photo essay on the historical Janmashtami procession in Landour Bazaar.

On 20 September, INTACH Mussoorie organized the City Round of the Inter-School Heritage Quiz at Mahatma Yogeshwar Saraswati Sishu Vidya Mandir, where 64 students participated in the

preliminary round. Four teams qualified for the final oral round, with Oak Grove School winning first place, followed by Wynberg Allen School and St. Clare’s Convent School. Chief Guest, Mrs. Alpana Pant Sharma, retired IFS officer, congratulated the finalists and motivated students to deepen their interest in India’s heritage, while Co-Convenor, Surbhi Agarwal, highlighted the importance of cultural awareness among the youth.

The Chapter collaborated with the Landour Lecture Series and the Mussoorie Heritage Centre to host a talk by anthropologist Joyce Burkhalter Flueckiger titled *Memory, Movement & Belonging in Landour Bazaar*. Born in Landour and an alumna of Woodstock School, Mrs. Flueckiger shared insights from her book *On Mullingar Hill*, drawing from stories and lived memories of Landour’s shopkeepers. The talk attracted an engaged audience comprising local residents, anthropologists, and research scholars.

West Bengal

✓ KOLKATA

On 1 August, an engaging discussion on the book *The Great Conciliator – Lal Bahadur Shastri and the Transformation of India* was held at Oxford Bookstore, where author and former IAS officer S. J. V. Chopra was in conversation with G. M. Kapur, State Convenor, INTACH. The session offered rich insights into the life and leadership of India’s second Prime Minister and was well appreciated by the audience.

On 1 August, the INTACH FilmIt Workshop was conducted at Sri Sri Academy with participation from 16 Kolkata schools. The workshop opened with addresses by Principal Ms. Gargi Banerjee and Co-Convenor Ms. Kanchana Mukhopadhyay. The INTACH HECS team—Abhishek Das, Ms. Shikha Gupta, and Ms. Sasha Singh—trained students and teachers in scripting, shooting, and editing short heritage films.

On 25 August, the Chapter Meeting took place at Bingsha Shatabdi, Park Street, led by Convenor Shri. G. M. Kapur



A group photo of students participated in INTACH Interschool Heritage Quiz – Mussoorie Chapter



Members during the Chapter's annual meeting – Mussoorie Chapter



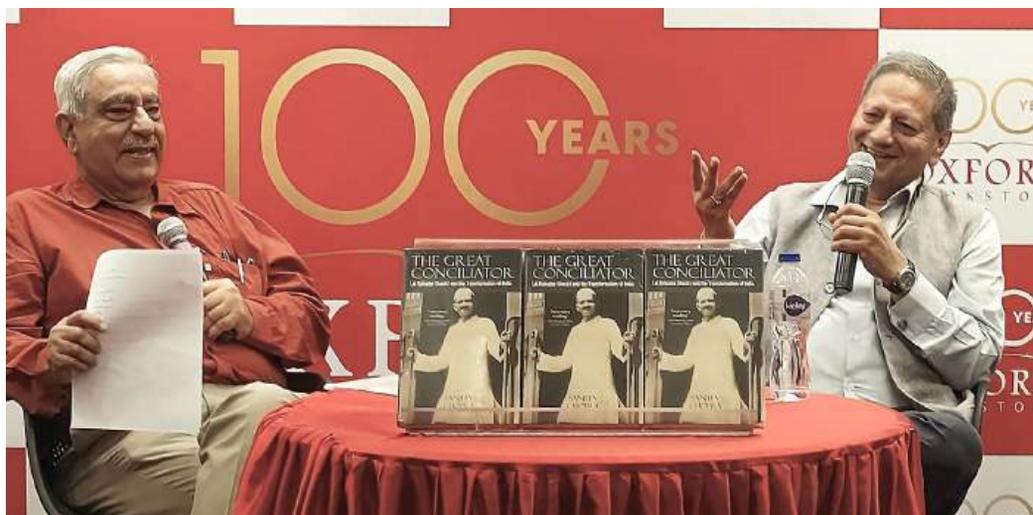
Shri. Subash Chandra Baral, Senior Conservator, INTACH ICI Kolkata, being felicitated at the 52nd National Conference – Kolkata Chapter

along with Co-Convenors Ms. Kanchana Mukhopadhyay and Ms. Nayantara Palchoudhuri. Members reviewed ongoing projects and future initiatives. The meeting concluded with a presentation by Shri Devasis Chattopadhyay on his new book *Harry Hobbs of Kolkata and Other Forgotten Lives*, which sparked enthusiastic discussion among attendees.

On 15 September, Convenor G. M. Kapur moderated a discussion and Q&A session on the theme of 'Memories and Identity' with Kaberi Chattopadhyay of SMPK at the Indentured Memorial Day: A Commemorative Seminar organized by Syama Prasad Mookherjee Port, Kolkata. The session reflected on the legacy of indentured communities and their cultural memory.

From 23 to 25 September, Shri Subash Chandra Baral, Senior Conservator at INTACH ICI Kolkata, presented a case study on the conservation of Elokeshi Kantha at the 52nd National Conference of the IASC on 'Conservation of Cultural Heritage with an Emphasis on Textiles', sharing insights into the challenges and treatment methods used for this historically valuable textile from the Birla Academy of Art and Culture.

On 30 October, the INTACH National Heritage Quiz 2025 (City Level) was hosted by the INTACH Calcutta Regional Chapter at Apeejay School, Park Street, with 38 students from seven Kolkata schools



Shri. G.M. Kapur, State Convenor, in conversation with SJV Chopra on a new book 'The Great Conciliator- Lal Bahadur Shastri and the Transformation of India' – Kolkata Chapter

participating. After a written and four verbal rounds conducted by quizmaster, Garden High School won the City Level and qualified for the State Round, with prizes presented by Balaknath Bhattacharjee, Convenor, Murshidabad Chapter.

The State Level of the INTACH National Heritage Quiz 2025 was also held on 30 October at Apeejay School Park Street, featuring teams from the Calcutta, Hooghly, and Murshidabad Chapters. After five rounds, Sargachi Ramakrishna Mission High School representing INTACH Murshidabad Chapter emerged as the State winner and qualified to represent West Bengal at the National Level, with awards presented by Convenor, Balaknath Bhattacharjee.

On 30 October, Convenor G. M. Kapur participated in a panel discussion on the 'Way Forward' during The Riverbank City: Kolkata and Its Ghatscape, part of the Historic Cities Series (Kolkata Edition-2), organised by the Centre for Human Settlement Planning and the Department of Architecture at Jadavpur University, and supported by ICOMOS India East Zone, featuring a keynote address by Dr. Kalyan Rudra.

✓ MURSHIDABAD

The Chapter organized a two-day Jute Art & Craft workshop on 8-9 September at Seva Miloni High School, Khagra, to promote

alternatives for reviving the declining jute industry, which has suffered since the 1947 partition and the rise of plastic products. A total of 36 students from various schools were trained by renowned jute artist Shri Sandip Guin, who taught them techniques for creating decorative and utility items from jute. On the second day, students independently crafted impressive, high-quality products, many of which were considered market-ready. Owing to the exceptional standard of work, six entries were awarded instead of three, with the top prizes going to Ayan Debnath (1st), Eshan Mondal (2nd), and Shubham Saha (3rd), all from Sargachhi Ramkrishna Mission High School.



Workshop on 'Jute Art & Craft' under 'Revival of Dying Art Programme' – Murshidabad Chapter



Awardees of the workshop – Murshidabad Chapter



Late Shri. P.V. Prasad

Obituary

Andhra Pradesh

VISAKHAPATNAM

The Chapter mourns the demise of **Shri P.V. Prasad**, former Convenor of the INTACH Visakhapatnam Chapter, who passed away peacefully. A deeply passionate advocate for heritage, he contributed immensely to the growth and activities of the INTACH Visakhapatnam Chapter as a Life Member, former Co-Convenor, and Convenor. His dedication, commitment, and service leave behind an enduring legacy for all of us.



Late Shri. Er. Chembath Achutha Menon

Himachal Pradesh

MANDI

The Chapter mourns the passing of **Dr. R.K. Rajoo**, a veteran Life Member of the Mandi Chapter and a respected agricultural scientist. Associated with INTACH for over nine years, he actively participated in the programmes and initiatives of the Mandi Chapter.

Maharashtra

SOLAPUR

The Chapter mourns the untimely demise of our esteemed member, **Ms. Sudharani Sandesh Trivedi** (Membership No. L/17086).



Late Shri. C.K.N. Thampi

Kerala

THRISSUR

The Chapter deeply mourns the sad demise of the esteemed member, **Shri Er. Chembath Achutha Menon** (L/15944), a respected and active Life Member and retired Engineer, who left on 21 April 2025. Shri Chembath Achutha Menon remained a committed and inspiring presence in our Chapter even after his retirement, contributing wholeheartedly to our initiatives, deliberations, and discussions. His technical expertise, humility, and unwavering enthusiasm were truly admirable and left a lasting impression on everyone who had the privilege of working with him.

The Chapter mourns the sad demise of our esteemed member, **Shri C.K.N. Thampi** (AL/16403), who passed away on 28 September 2025. A valued part of our community, Shri Thampi's presence, dedication, and contributions will be fondly remembered.

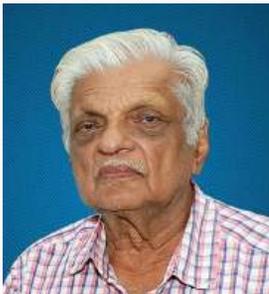


Late Mrs. Tara Murali

Tamil Nadu

CHENNAI

The Chapter mourns the passing of **Mrs. Tara Murali** (2 October 1949 – 26 July 2025), who contributed with exceptional dedication to INTACH's vision since the 1980s, and whose contributions remain invaluable. She served as Governing Council Member (2012 – 2018), Co-Convenor of the Chennai Chapter (2013 – 2021) and was a longstanding Life Member (L-6635).



Late Dr. S. Padmanabhan

NAGERCOIL

The Chapter mourns the passing of **Dr. S. Padmanabhan** (31st March 1934 – 7th November 2025), a distinguished scholar and esteemed member of the INTACH Nagercoil Chapter. Born in Thiruvananthapuram and a native of Nagercoil, he retired from the State Bank of India in 1988. Dr. Padmanabhan was renowned for his studies on South Indian temple architecture, contributions to All India Radio and television, and research on the history of Kanyakumari District.

HERITAGE INFORMATION

The National Digital Library of India

The National Digital Library of India (NDLI) is a virtual repository of learning resources which is not just a repository with search/browse facilities but provides a host of services for the learner community. The NDLI provides user group-specific services for students, researchers, cultural archives, career development, general learners etc. It is built to provide support for all disciplines, all popular forms of access devices and differently-abled learners and designed to hold content of any language. It also provides interface support for 10 most widely used Indian languages.



The NDLI is under the aegis of the Ministry of Education through the National Mission on Education Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT). The NDLI has been developed by the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur under the Digital India Programme by the Government of India to transform the country into a digitally empowered society and with a knowledge economy for democratizing education, learning beyond boundaries and to make learning resources available through a single-window to the learners.

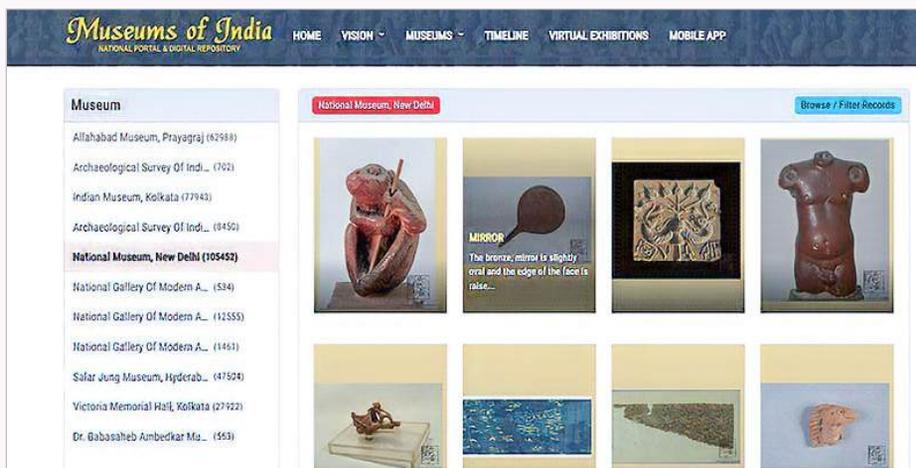


Link: <https://www.ndli.gov.in/>

Digitization Cell of the National Museum

The Digitization Cell of the National Museum is the nodal unit for Digitization of Museum Objects on the JATAN platform, a common portal for the public viewing of antiquities in the various collections. It is an innovative educational tool: The Virtual Museum demonstrates the value of cultural heritage as a source of our identity and part of our cultural rights. It recognizes the inextricable link between tangible and intangible cultural heritage and the importance of protecting cultural heritage in all its forms.

JATAN provides the public access to any artefacts on display or in the reserve collection of the Museum. It stores a digital record not only for external use but for keeping data for internal use such as tracking its location, conservation details, etc. It enables upkeep, research and making antiquities of Indian museums more accessible and visible to the world.



Link: <https://www.nationalmuseumindia.gov.in/en/collections/index/30>

The Virtual Museum software is used for creating digital collections in various museums and digital archival tools, that are used in the background, for managing the national digital repository of museums.

JATAN Collection List

Pre-Historic Archaeology, Archaeology, Anthropology, Arms and Armour, Decorative Arts, Manuscript, Numismatics and Epigraphy, Painting, Jewellery, Central Asian Antiquities, Pre-Columbian and Western Art



Nostalgia

Physical Libraries were once an integral part of our lives, whether in schools or universities or in later life. Which of us is not familiar with a Library Card, the issuing of books, two or three at a time, and rapidly reading them to return them in time. Browsing through shelves and shelves of literature, poetry, history, science to finish a tutorial or to delve into a favorite author or poet added a dimension, which is missing today with the advent of the digital era. Those libraries are almost obsolete now and one finds limited references to them in daily life.

However, it is indeed good to know that some still exist for intrepid students and book lovers. Hence, a few top libraries are listed here to acknowledge the big part they play, and hopefully that day will never dawn when all books will be stored in digital libraries in the Cloud, or in AI generated reading rooms!



National Libraries

The **National Library of India, located in Kolkata** is India's largest and oldest library by volume and public record. The story of the library goes back to 1836. It was conceived to help people study and borrow reading and referencing material irrespective of their background. The Birchandra Central State Library, Agartala, is the second oldest library in India, established in 1896 by Maharaja Birchandra Manikya. It is the apex Library of the Public Library system in Tripura.



The three major metropolitan libraries are: The Connemara Public Library in Chennai, The Central Library in Mumbai, and The Delhi Public Library. There are also several specialized national-level libraries.

The Delhi Public Library (DPL) was established in 1951 by the then Ministry of Education, Government of India with financial and technical assistance from UNESCO. It has been developed into a premier public library system in the country covering the entire Metropolitan city, and still has active membership.

The National Library of India, Kolkata



The Delhi Public Library; Reading Room in the library



OBJECTIVES OF INTACH

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