

INTACH Varasat

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



INTACH

Indian
National Trust
for Art and
Cultural Heritage

DEDICATED TO CONSERVATION



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.

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Registration no.: English: DEL Eng/2004/14304, Hindi: DEL Hin/2004/14144

CHAIRMAN SPEAKS



Shri Ashok Singh Thakur

(Left to Right)
Release of INTACH Documentary Film “Kan-Kan Mein Ram” by the Union Minister of Culture and Tourism, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

The past few months have been filled with dynamic activities, reflecting the vibrant spirit of INTACH. Approaching this role with an open mind, my vision is to nurture INTACH's growth to its fullest potential by expanding projects and scaling up our efforts. INTACH's role as a key driver in preserving the cultural landscape of our country is well established, and it is imperative that we elevate this image to even greater heights.

To achieve this, we must undertake robust awareness-building initiatives that highlight the positive impact of our organization, the dedication of our members, and the invaluable work carried out across our 239 Chapters nationwide. Greater synchronization between the central office and chapters is essential to ensure our activities are aligned and impactful.

Several notable milestones were achieved recently. One of the major highlights was the release of INTACH's documentary film *Kan-Kan Mein Ram*. The event was graced by the Hon'ble Union Minister for Culture and Tourism, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat. The Minister appreciated INTACH's efforts in showcasing the Ramayana not just as mythology, but as a living, dynamic cultural tradition that unites the country. He highlighted the film's powerful narrative, rooted in years of authentic research, and described it as a compendium of India's rich intangible heritage and collective consciousness. The film highlights the diversity of Ramayana performances across India and reinforces INTACH's commitment to preserving our intangible cultural heritage.

The inauguration of the Damoh Chapter marked a significant step in extending INTACH's presence to new regions. I also had the pleasure of visiting the Gorakhpur Chapter during



(Left) Chairman communicating with members on the inauguration of the new Chapter – Damoh;
(Right) Chairman as Chief Guest for the Mango Mahotsav organised by the Gorakhpur Chapter



The inauguration of the Damoh Chapter marked a significant step in extending INTACH's presence to new regions. I also had the pleasure of visiting the Gorakhpur Chapter during their *Mango Mahotsav*



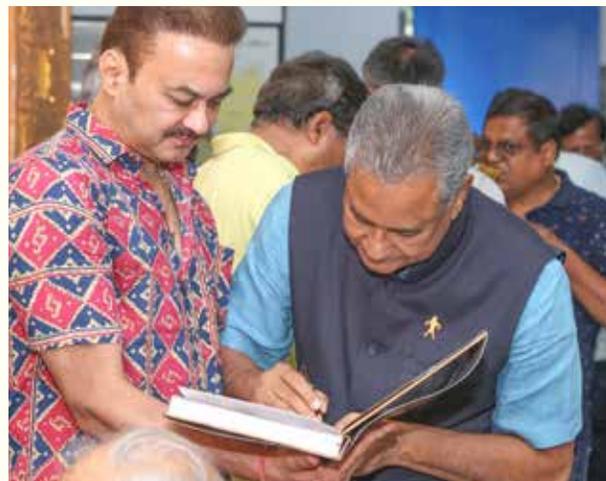
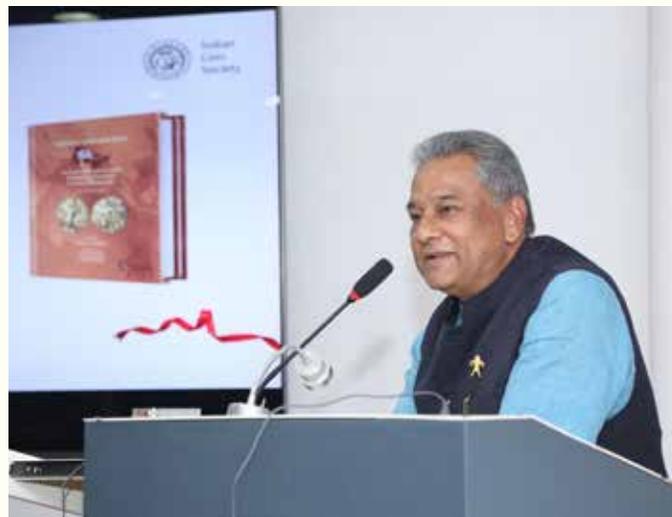
their *Mango Mahotsav*, which featured engaging heritage discussions and a visit to the historic Gorakhnath Temple. Furthermore, on Kargil Diwas, INTACH launched the Hoshiarpur Chapter to address the cultural heritage issues of the region, underscoring the importance of preserving our heritage while honoring national pride.

As Secretary of the Indian Coin Society and Editor of the *Nidhi* Journal Series, I am pleased to share the release of the third volume, *Nidhi III*, published in collaboration with INTACH—an important addition to our cultural and numismatic literature.

Our Divisions continue to undertake important research and fieldwork. We have recently completed a twenty-day riverine islands survey, along the Brahmaputra River, documenting fragile ecosystems and traditional island communities. We are progressing with two national projects: *Flowing Legacies*, focused on riverine and maritime traditions, and *Pilgrimages of India*, which documents the living traditions of *yatras* and *parikramas* through workshops and field engagement with Chapters and communities. We organized a lecture series on the Maritime Heritage of India. We hosted the National Winners Educational Excursion and Felicitation Ceremony in Delhi. Recent initiatives also include the revival of the Puneri saree weaving and the research and documentation of idol-making traditions of India. Documentation of the INTACH Directory of Traditional Building Crafts of Goa is near completion. The publication will provide detailed documentation of these building crafts, including photographs, materials, craft techniques, and surveys.

Across the INTACH network, restoration, education, and outreach efforts continue to grow—united by a shared mission to safeguard India's heritage. Let us build on this momentum with collaboration, innovation, and collective commitment.

Jai Hind!



(Clockwise from top left)
 Chairman at INTACH Headquarters;
 A token of appreciation to Sanjeev Sanyal from Chairman, during the Lecture Series – Maritime Heritage of India;
 Sanya Tyagi and Prof. (Dr) Alka Tyagi with Chairman and Vice Chairman during the lec-dem 'Yogic Tool' and Meditation;
 INTACH Chairman addressing the audience on the occasion of releasing the book – Nidhi III;
 Distinguished guests, scholars and authors releasing the book;
 A guest receiving an autograph on the released book from INTACH Chairman & ICS Secretary;
 Chairman interacting with the National Winners after the facilitation ceremony at the INTACH courtyard

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FEATURE ARTICLE

Bastions of Chivalry: Forts of the Marathas

AUTHOR

Editorial Team,
INTACH Virasat

The Maratha Empire, founded in the 17th century by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, emerged as a formidable force in Indian history through visionary leadership, military innovation, and an unwavering commitment to the concept of Swarajya, or self-rule. Shivaji Maharaj, a dynamic warrior-king and a master strategist, is widely regarded as one of the greatest Indian rulers of his time. He established a competent and progressive civil administration, promoted the use of the Marathi and Sanskrit languages in court and administration, and upheld a policy of religious tolerance in a deeply divided political landscape. Central to Shivaji Maharaj's strategy were the forts, over 370 of them, that served not only as military bastions but also as administrative centers and symbols of resistance against the Mughal Empire.

India's tradition of fort-building dates back to the Indus Valley Civilization, with fortified settlements such as Dholavira and Mohenjodaro showcasing early defensive architecture. This tradition evolved through the centuries, culminating in the highly strategic hill and sea forts of the Marathas. Shivaji Maharaj, recognizing the rugged terrain of the Western Ghats as ideal for defense, either captured and modified existing forts or constructed new ones from scratch. The Maratha Empire later became one of the first major Indian powers to offer organized resistance to the expanding British colonial empire, laying early foundations for India's struggle for independence.

Vijaydurg Fort's bastion: A cornerstone of Maratha naval defence in the 17th century





Prominent among them are **Rajgad**—Shivaji Maharaj’s first capital, perched 4,514 feet above sea level and featuring three defensive plateaus (machis) and a fortified citadel (Balekilla), which housed the royal residence. Its elevated position provided a wide vantage point for surveillance and planning. Raigad, the empire’s later capital, was even more formidable, designed with multiple layers of walls, secret water reservoirs, and strong gates to withstand prolonged sieges.

Pratapgad, famous for the battle against Bijapur Sultanate’s General Afzal Khan, is built on a steep hill with massive bastions and winding steps. Its complex design included hidden pathways and escape routes, enabling Shivaji Maharaj’s forces to manoeuvre swiftly during conflict.

Maratha sea forts like **Vijaydurg** and **Sindhudurg** showcased innovative maritime defense. Vijaydurg, built on a promontory with three sides surrounded by the sea and a moat on the fourth, had triple-layered fortifications and served as a naval base. Sindhudurg, constructed with help from Portuguese engineers, had thick stone walls rising up to 27 feet and cleverly concealed entrances, making it highly resistant to naval assaults.



An aerial view of Rajgad Fort, the first capital of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj’s Maratha Empire

Shivaji Maharaj carefully chose fort locations, on hilltops, in dense forests, or along the coast, to make them difficult to attack. These forts gave him a significant geographical advantage over enemies such as the Mughals and the Adil Shahi and Bijapur sultanates. Many forts were not just military outposts but also centers of governance, housing marketplaces, water reservoirs, temples, granaries, and living quarters. From these forts, Shivaji Maharaj ruled over his growing territory. His famous guerrilla tactics, known as *ganimi kava*, depended on quick retreats and strong defense. Forts offered refuge and vantage points to monitor enemy movement, allowing small Maratha forces to defeat larger armies.

Beyond their military importance, each fort symbolized Maratha independence and resistance. By capturing forts from the Mughals or Adil Shahis, Shivaji Maharaj was asserting Maratha sovereignty, and these forts became lasting symbols of pride for future generations.



Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj idol at Raigad Fort

Unlike the ornate Mughal forts, Maratha forts emphasized functionality and were ingeniously adapted to the natural contours of the landscape. They lacked palaces, gardens, or temples, and instead focused on defense, logistics, and egalitarian structure—there was minimal difference between spaces allocated to high-ranking officers and common soldiers. Many forts featured complex multi-layered fortifications, secret escape routes, and excellent water management systems that allowed them to withstand long sieges. Shivaji Maharaj also ensured community participation in both the construction and defense of these forts, fostering a strong connection between the people and the empire.

In landmark recognition of Maratha heritage, the ‘Maratha Military Landscapes’—a collection of strategically designed forts reflecting the military brilliance of the Maratha rulers, was recently added to the UNESCO World Heritage List, becoming India’s 44th site to receive the honor.



Fort names were often Sanskritized, reinforcing a cultural and civilizational identity that distinguished Maratha rule from previous regimes. The forts operated under a disciplined three-tier administration and were subject to regular inspections. With Maharashtra alone home to over 70 of these structures, the region remains a living museum of Maratha military architecture. These forts were not just stone and mortar, they were instruments of a revolutionary statecraft that allowed a relatively small force to successfully resist larger and wealthier imperial powers. They reflect Shivaji Maharaj's deep understanding of geography, military science, and governance.

Even today, these majestic structures stand as enduring symbols of Maratha resilience, strategic brilliance, and the dream of self-rule that would later inspire freedom movements across India.

In landmark recognition of Maratha heritage, the 'Maratha Military Landscapes'—a collection of strategically designed forts reflecting the military brilliance of the Maratha rulers, was recently added to the UNESCO World Heritage List, becoming India's 44th site to receive the honor. Developed between the 17th and 19th centuries, these forts showcase the military ideology established by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and continued through the Peshwa era.

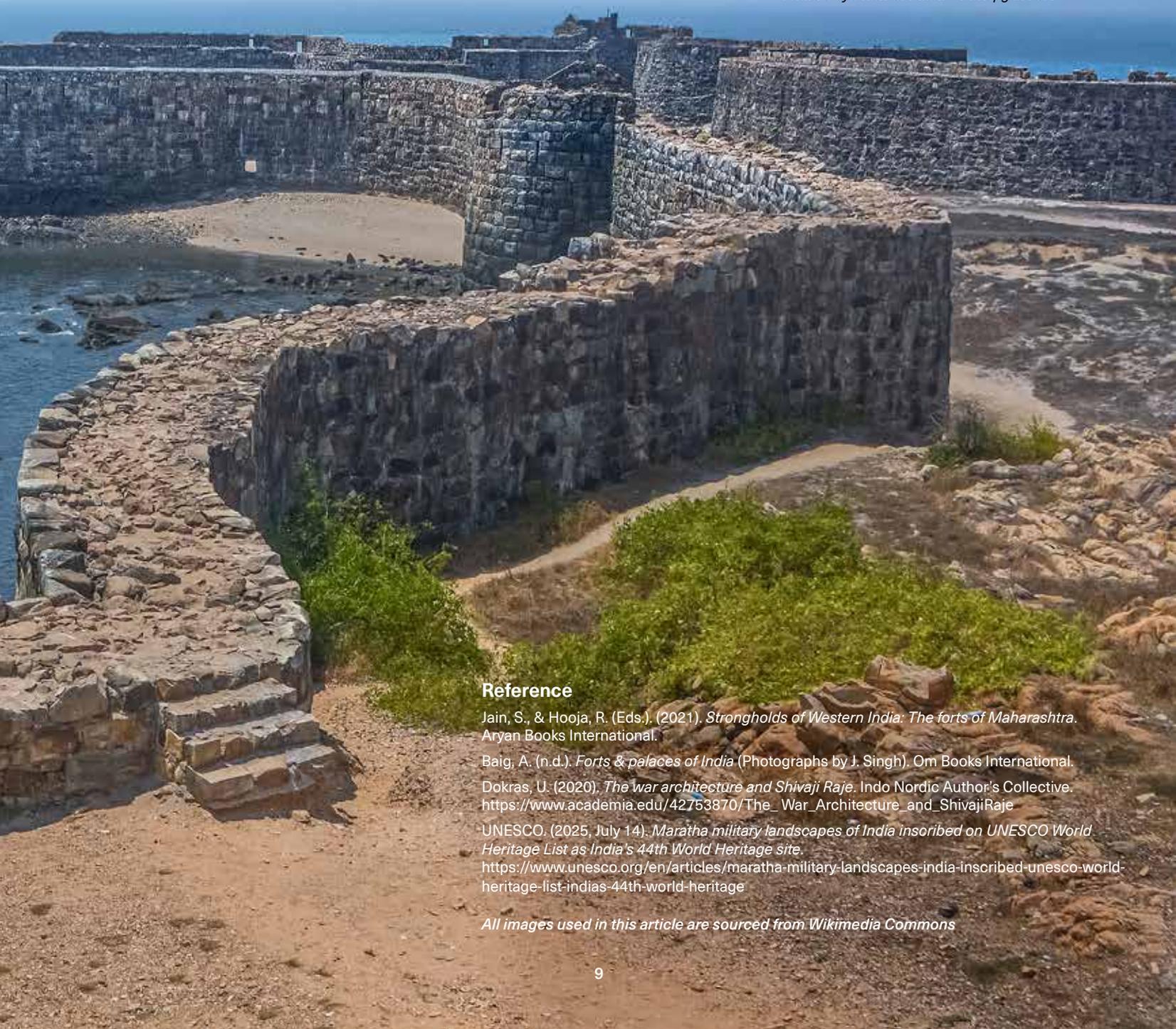


Exterior view of Sindhudurg—a strategic naval fort off the Malvan coast

Out of more than 390 forts in Maharashtra, 12 were selected for this recognition, with eight protected by the Archaeological Survey of India. Spread across diverse terrains, they highlight the Marathas' mastery of geography and defense strategy. The announcement, made during the 47th session of the World Heritage Committee in Paris, was welcomed by leaders including Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi and Minister of Culture and Tourism, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat. The selected forts include Salher, Shivneri, Lohgad, Khanderi, Raigad, Rajgad, Pratapgad, Suvarnadurg, Panhala, Vijaydurg, and Sindhudurg.



A bird's-eye view of valour – Pratapgad Fort



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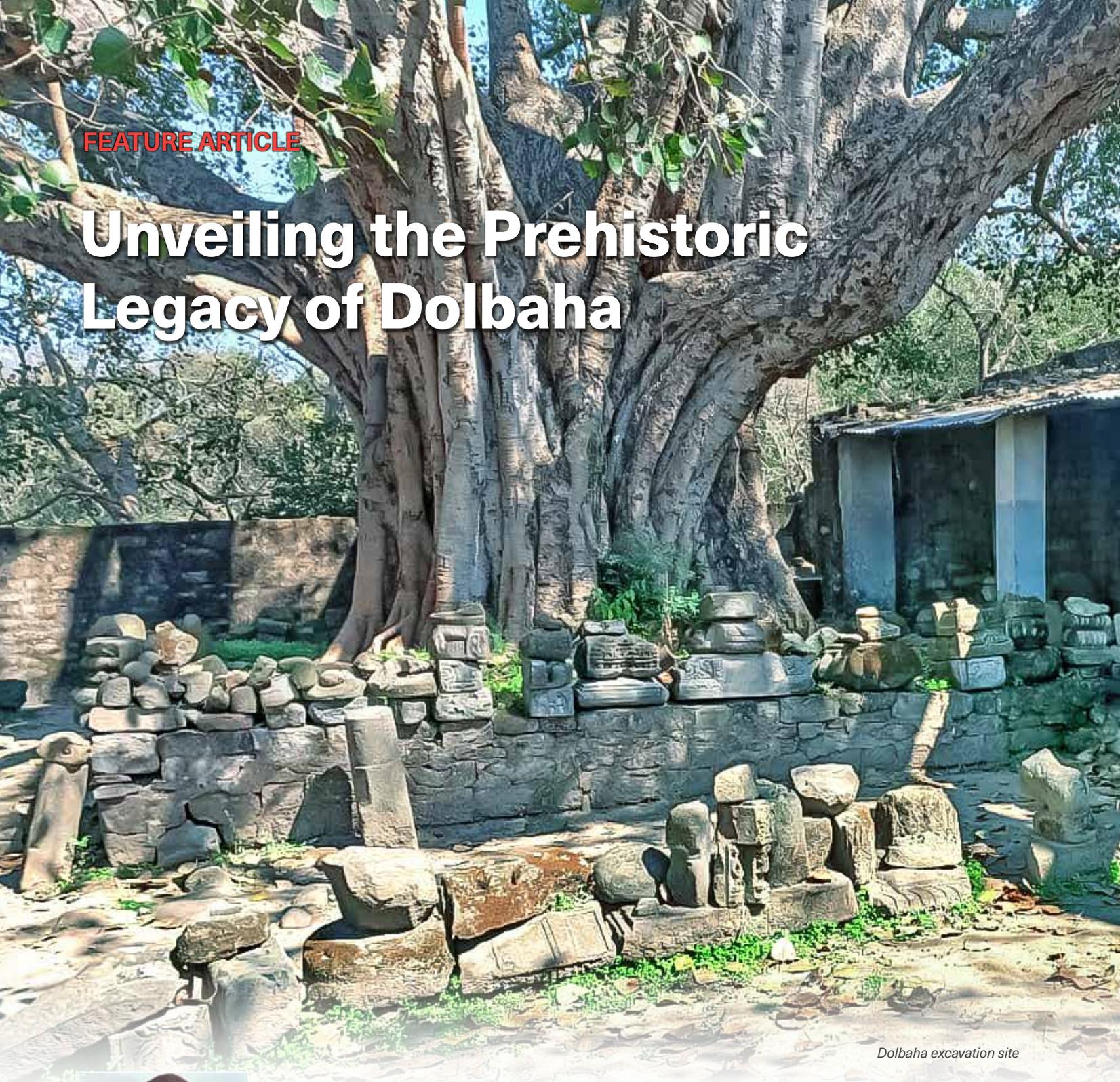
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FEATURE ARTICLE

Unveiling the Prehistoric Legacy of Dolbaha



Dolbaha excavation site



AUTHOR & IMAGES SOURCE

Maj. Gen. Balwinder Singh, VSM (Retd.)
Punjab State Convenor,
INTACH

Approximately 30 kilometres northwest of Hoshiarpur in Punjab, is a significant archaeological site – Dolbaha, a village near the Dholbaha Khad river. The historical significance of the site deepened with the findings related to the post-Gupta period, particularly from the 7th-13th centuries, aligning with the rule of the Gurjara – Pratihara (8th-11th centuries) and Paramara (9th-13th centuries) dynasties. These renowned dynasties were patrons of art, architecture, and their influence seems to have reached this part of the Punjab.

The discovery of fossils and stone tools in the region indicates human activity during the Pleistocene epoch. The nature of unearthed artefacts reveals the prehistoric habitation of the region which appears to have been a cultural and religious hub.



The excavations have revealed a wealth of stone sculptures, including

- Deity figures, architectural fragments, and intricately carved panels, pointing to the presence of settlements.
- Hand axes, cleavers, and scrapers — typical of the Lower Paleolithic era.

In the chronological layers, the site reveals microliths and pottery which belongs to the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods as also rich artefacts in sandstone and limestone. The tools and relics found at Dolbaha indicate early hominins in the region practiced hunting-gathering and eventually transitioned toward early forms of agriculture and settlement. The historical connection of the region is the proximity to the Shivalik foothills, which have yielded evidence of ancient trade routes linking the plains of Punjab to the Himalayan regions and beyond.

Preserved in the Sadhu Ashram Hoshiarpur Archaeological Museum are medieval sculptures reflecting Dolbaha's layered history from primitive toolmakers to skilled artisans under dynastic rule. The museum's exhibits include sculptures of deities such as Vishnu, Shiva, Parvati, and Ganesha, as well as Jain Tirthankaras, reflecting the region's diverse cultural heritage.

The artefacts range from Paleolithic tools to protohistoric relics, shedding light on the technological and cultural evolution of early human societies in the Indian subcontinent. This area deserves greater attention—not only from historians and scholars but also from the public and policymakers. There are many challenges for promotion of the site such as no proper road connectivity, signages and basic visitors' amenities.

At present the site remains unnoticed and to bring it into the limelight some measures need to be adopted. Due to non-promotional initiatives, people are not aware of the historical value of the site, and therefore, some suggestions for the development of Dolbaha are:

- An Archaeological Park
- A Museum and Interpretation Centre
- Funding from PP Partnership/State Tourism/UNESCO/International heritage organizations

These measures could go a long way in promoting the excavation site and encourage tourism. It would involve community involvement and skill development, to empower people to participate. Development of the archaeological site would also generate local employment and encourage academic interest and scholarship.

It is time we turn this overlooked gem into a living museum, connecting the past with the present.

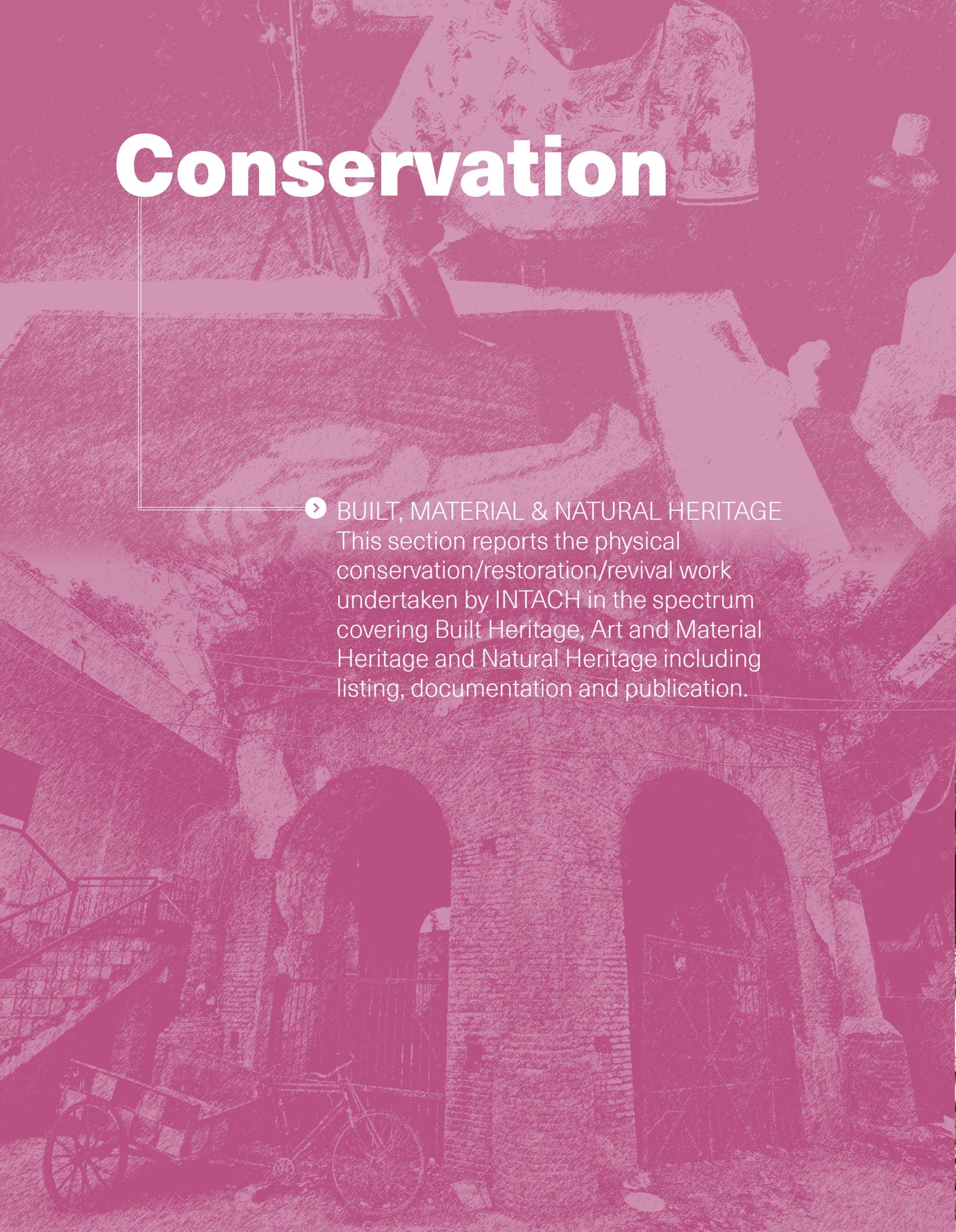


The Artifacts from the prehistoric times in the open museum by ASI at Dolbaha

The bull and Shivalingam were extricated by ASI during excavation of the site



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

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

The Southern Railway has approached INTACH through the Tamil Nadu Chapter for the conservation of the New General Office Building (NGO) in Chennai, which serves as its headquarters. The 100-year-old Indo-Saracenic building is located in close proximity to the Chennai Central Railway Station in the Park Town locale of Chennai.

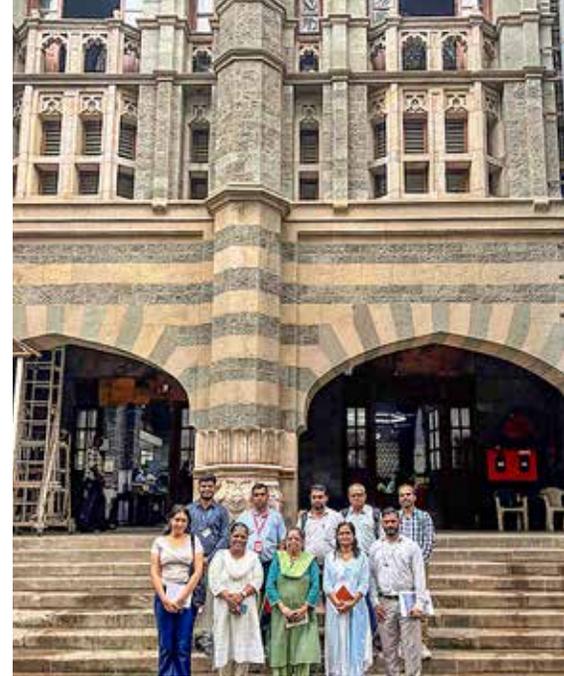
Designed by company architect N. Grayson and constructed by H. H. Wadia and Bros, a reputed firm from Porbandar, the building was completed in 1922. The building follows a symmetrical and axial plan, organized around a central dome and is flanked by extended wings on either side, forming a rectangular footprint with open courtyards in the centre.

Constructed using reinforced concrete a pioneering material choice at the time, the structure is adorned with a rich vocabulary of architectural features such as chhatris, jharokhas, arches, and colonnades, characteristic of the Indo-Saracenic style.

These elements are rhythmically arranged along the façade, creating a sense of order, grandeur, and visual harmony. A site visit was conducted by AH team, Hrutika Satdive (Conservation Architect) and Omkarisver K.V. (Conservation Engineer) and Omkarisver K.V. (Conservation Engineer) to do a site assessment on 1 May, based on which the Preliminary Proposal Report was prepared. This will be followed by the preparation of the DPR.

IIPA visit to GPO, Mumbai

On 9 July, a team from the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), led by Dr. Kusum Lata, Associate Professor, visited the GPO Mumbai site as part of the evaluation of the estate management scheme, with a focus on the restoration works. During the visit, a detailed presentation on the ongoing works, followed by a heritage walk through the site, was given by the site team



IIPA visit to GPO, Mumbai

Shailesh Gore and Abhijit Sonawane. The IIPA team reviewed the condition of the building, office spaces, workstations and sanitation facilities, with particular attention to accessibility for the differently abled and the elderly. Discussions also covered the project expenditure and execution of the upcoming phases.



NGO building facade, rear (above) and front (below)

Kilkaari Bihar Bal Bhawan, Muzaffarpur, Bihar

Following the site visit on 31 January 2025 and preparation of the conservation proposal of the historic buildings at Kilkaari, Bihar Bal Bhawan, Muzaffarpur the MoU was signed in March. The three heritage structures included the Kitchen Block, Guard Room and the Hostel Block out of which the conservation of the Guard Room was initiated on site by the AH team on 21 May.



Guard room during conservation





Guard room before restoration

The roof and portions of the walls of this small structure were taken over by vegetation growth. The vegetation has been carefully removed, and the consolidation of the structure is currently in progress. The conservation of the Guard Room is expected to be completed by the end of July 2025. Though small scale in nature, the restoration work has garnered a lot of interest and appreciation.

Design and Curation of Ropuiliani Tribal Freedom Fighter Museum, Kelsih, Mizoram

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, has entrusted INTACH with the

curator and development of the Ropuiliani Tribal Freedom Fighter Museum at Kelsih, Mizoram. In May 2025, a site visit was conducted to assess the current condition of the museum building and the existing facilities.

Based on the observations and findings during the visit, a Detailed Project Report (DPR) was prepared, outlining the proposed upgrades and enhancements to the museum's infrastructure, display systems, and visitor experience using state-of-the-art technologies. The DPR was submitted to the state tribal department on 30 June.

The proposed Freedom Fighters' Museum is envisioned as a landmark cultural initiative, dedicated to commemorating the bravery, resilience, and sacrifices of Mizoram's tribal communities in India's freedom movement—particularly the legacy of Ropuiliani, a fearless freedom fighter and the first woman chief of Mizoram. A powerful tribal queen of the mid 19th Century she fiercely resisted colonial interference, defied oppressive taxation and stood firm in defense of her people's sovereignty.

Rediscovering Ferozepur Fort: Conservation Initiative

On the request of INTACH Punjab Chapter the Architectural Heritage Division team visited the Ferozepur Fort in Punjab from 25-26 June to make an initial assessment. Believed to have been founded in the 14th century by Sultan Ferozeshah Tughlaq, the fort holds immense historical and strategic importance, standing along the northwest frontier of the country.



Bunker & Residence of Sir Henry Lawrence

Main museum building



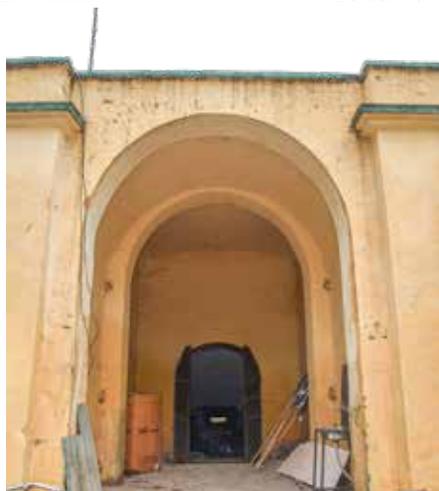
Proposed render of Gallery 4



Proposed render of Chief Zaakapa capture



Darbar Hall



Outer bunker in the fortification

Architecturally, the fort is a remarkable example of military design evolution. Its hexagonal outer perimeter follows the Italian model of polygonal bastions, later modified by a French military engineer who introduced sloping walls and arrow-shaped bastions for improved defence. A distinct feature is its double line of fortifications, with built-in bunkers designed for added protection.



Bunker in the outer fortification



Internal view with the circular well

Within the inner battlements lie several historic structures, including the Darbar Hall, a workshop shed, stables, and barracks, accessed through arched gateways that still echo the fort's regal and martial past. Currently in the control of the Indian Army, two-thirds of the fort continues to serve military functions, while discussions are underway to open parts of it to the public.

Conservation of the Shore's Well, Dehradun, Uttarakhand

Located within the historic fabric of the city, Shore's Well stands as a significant engineering and architectural landmark, attributed to Captain Frederick Shore, one of the early British settlers in the Doon Valley. The structure exemplifies the ingenuity of colonial-era water management systems and represents an important chapter in the development of Dehradun's civic infrastructure during the 19th century. The well is circular and enclosed within a hexagonal perimeter articulated by eight evenly spaced arched openings. The structure is



Exterior of shore's well

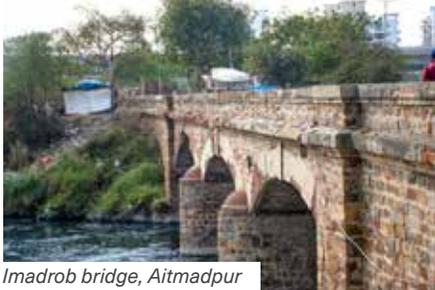
covered with a lot of deep-rooted trees and vegetation and has wide cracks. To initiate conservation efforts, the AH team, along with the Uttarakhand chapter conducted a site visit and a Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been prepared which includes a comprehensive architectural documentation, condition assessment, conservation strategy, and cost estimates. It is hoped that conservation work can be initiated with some funding assistance, to ensure the continued recognition and preservation of Dehradun's urban historic landscape.



Shiv Temple, Hasanpur, Palwal



Surajkund, Faridabad



Imadrob bridge, Aitmadpur village, Sector 33, Faridabad



Residence, Hasanpur, Palwal

Yamuna Cultural Documentation

The documentation along the Yamuna River in Haryana, Faridabad and Palwal, has now been completed.

Faridabad has 41 built heritage sites, including three ASI-protected monuments: Surajkund, Anangpur Dam, and Kos Minar. Most structures are residential, featuring courtyard layouts, multifoliated arch entrances, and bracket-supported balconies, similar to other Haryana districts. Mohna village stands out with early 20th century CE havelis, traditional houses and reused or abandoned mosques, reflecting post-Partition changes. In contrast, Palwal's 37 built heritage sites, in villages like Sultanpur and Hassanpur, show minimal alteration. Palwal also contains a few unidentified tombs structures, contributing to the diversity of its architectural typology.

In these two districts, the historical water trade route between Delhi and Agra also adds importance. Here, the Yamuna River was once actively used for transporting goods and people. This activity declined after the construction of the Western Yamuna Canal and Agra Canal in the 19th century CE. After that, the river was used mainly for transporting timber and fuel by the government. Public ferry services were still active until the early 20th century CE.



(Left) Residence, Kurali village, Faridabad
(Below) Mosque, Sultanpur, Palwal





PD, AH and Mr. Graham Ormsby during a meeting for international partnerships

Building International Partnerships

On 4 June 2025, the Principal Director of the Architectural Heritage Division held a meeting with Mr. Graham Ormsby of Aus Heritage to explore potential avenues for future collaboration. The discussion focused on key areas including heritage conservation, skills development, capacity building, and knowledge exchange.

Both parties expressed a strong interest in fostering international partnerships aimed at advancing shared goals in the preservation and sustainable management of cultural heritage. It is hoped that this initial engagement will serve as the foundation for a meaningful and productive relationship between INTACH and Aus Heritage.

INTACH's Participation at UNESCO WHITRAP Symposium at Suzhou, China

Ar. Ipsita Acharya, Conservation Architect and Project Manager at AHD, was invited as an UNESCO-WHITRAP sponsored delegate to present a case study on Jetha Varna Mahavihara, one of the cultural heritage sites in Nepal restored under the MoU between the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and INTACH, focusing on the conservation of 12 earthquake-affected sites. Jetha Varna

Mahavihara, a 17th century monastery in the buffer zone of the Kathmandu Valley world heritage monument zone was restored and inaugurated on 22 March 2024 under the Government of India Grant.

The symposium, held from 23-26 May 2025 in Suzhou, China, was organized by the UNESCO East Asia Regional Office and WHITRAP (World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region). The project was also exhibited to the public at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Lion Grove Garden, Suzhou, as part of the event.

In recognition of Ar. Ipsita contributions as a young professional in the field of heritage conservation, she was awarded the title of 2025 Asia-Pacific Young Master for Heritage Conservation.



MoU with ITPI was signed by PD(NH) in presence of ITPI members and PD(AH) INTACH

Signing of MoU with Institute of Town Planners India (ITPI)

On 24 May 2025, an MoU was signed between INTACH and ITPI (Institute of Town Planners India) to collaborate on training, research and workshops related to heritage conservation. Different activities/workshops are being planned either on a regional basis or central.



Exhibition at the Lion Grove Garden



Ar. Ipsita with certificate



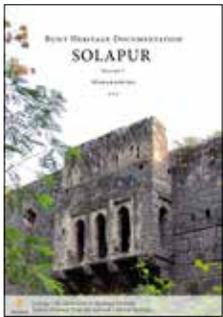
INTACH LISTING CELL



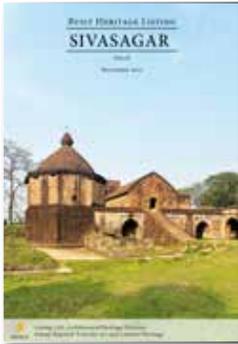
Gandhi Vishram Sthal, Bharuch, Gujarat



Masjid Bazm Salaat, Gudri Bazaar, Faizabad, Uttar Pradesh



Cover page of volume 1 of Listing of Solapur, Maharashtra



Siva Dol, Sivasagar, Assam

Ongoing Listings

Listing of Bharuch Town, Gujarat

The oldest settlement in Gujarat and the second-oldest city in India after Varanasi, Bharuch has always been a prosperous town. Situated along the banks of the Narmada River in Gujarat, the city served as a gateway to Central and Northern India from the West through the Gulf of Khambhat. Since its inception it witnessed several layers of cultural imprints on its built form, which are still evident today in its built heritage. The listing of Bharuch was initiated recently with assistance from the Bharuch chapter. During the primary survey about 375 heritage properties were identified and listed including temples, havelis, Parsi residences, stepwells, and administrative buildings. The listing is under compilation.

Listing of Faizabad city and Cantonment, Uttar Pradesh

Faizabad, the first capital of the Nawabs, holds a distinguished place in history as the cradle of *Awadhi* culture and the *Ganga-Jamuni* Tehzeeb, a unique blend of Hindu-Muslim cultural traditions. A comprehensive heritage survey of the city has identified approximately 250 heritage properties within Faizabad city and nearly 50 in the Faizabad Cantonment. These include a diverse range of buildings such as temples, mosques, churches, bungalows, *kothis*, *havelis*, administrative offices, educational institutions, and gateways. An inventory of the listed heritage properties is underway.

Other ongoing listings include Listing of Burhanpur (Madhya Pradesh), Kandi Subdivision, Jabalpur city (Madhya Pradesh), Tarn Taran (Punjab), Rajpipla (Gujarat), Nashik District (Maharashtra), Dakshin Dinajpur (West Bengal) and Thrissur (Kerala).

Completed Listings

Listing of Solapur, Maharashtra

Solapur is a historic town in southeastern Maharashtra which gradually evolved from a small hamlet, in the 11th century, to an industrial town in the 20th century. Historically located on the cusp of multiple dynasties, the city showcases a diverse range of architectural typologies and styles. The listing of Solapur was undertaken by the Solapur Chapter in 2023 during which about 168 heritage properties were identified and documented in detail. The listing is compiled and printed in four volumes and available in IKC.

Listing of Sivasagar, Assam

Sivasagar, formerly known as Rangpur, served as the fifth capital of the Ahom kingdom and remained a prominent centre of administration, culture, and architecture for over six centuries. The city is home to significant monuments such as Talatal Ghar, Rang Ghar, and several large temple-tank complexes like Joysagar and Gaurisagar, reflecting the grandeur of Ahom era construction. The Listing of Sivasagar was initiated in March 2023 and about 80 heritage properties including temples, burial mounds, tanks, schools, residences and administrative buildings were listed. The listing is complete and printed.

Dissemination Activities

INTACH Heritage Database

As part of our initiative of developing an "INTACH Heritage Database", we have successfully uploaded our recent listings on our map-based online platform. Information of nearly 7000 heritage properties, identified and documented through primary surveys, has been uploaded so far and more are being added every day. The database is now publicly accessible and has been uploaded to the INTACH website.

Secondary Sources Database

Another heritage database is being developed to collect information about the heritage properties in the country through secondary sources. Support from chapters and other institutions is being sought to populate the database.



A snippet of the INTACH Heritage Database

ART & MATERIAL HERITAGE/ INTACH CONSERVATION INSTITUTE

Local Community Programme: Conservation of objects and Museum Development of Ramakrishna Kutir, Almora

INTACH Conservation Institute, Delhi team began a month-long Local Community Project, in the month of February and March 2025 regarding the conservation and restoration of artifacts belonging to Swami Turiyananda Ji and Swami Subhodananda ji, younger brother disciples of Swamy Vivekananda and developed a museum dedicated to Swami Turiyananda ji at Ramakrishna Kutir, Almora, Uttarakhand.

The Sri Ramkrishna Kutir has belongings of Swami Turiyanda ji and the collection includes cloths, medicines, instruments, shoes, shaving items, coins, lamp, and many other personal items.



In-situ lab setup for conservation of textile

The antiques, particularly the textile items, required immediate conservation because they were in an alarming state of deterioration. A small area provided by the Ashram was developed into a museum. On the ashram's premises an in-situ lab was also made for conservation purposes and to support the exhibit items. The local community and the ICI Delhi team designed the display cases for the collection.



Local carpenters making display cases



The space allotted for the Museum

Stitched images of the two rooms of the museum showing approximately the entire display





Directory of Wall Paintings (WPD) Programme

Wall Paintings in Shri Khandoba Temple Complex, Vadodara, Gujarat

Shri Khandoba Temple, built by the Gaekwads in 1786, is located on RV Desai Road in Navapura in Vadodara, Gujarat. The temple is built in the *Nagara* style and features a small *garbhagriha* preceded by a semi-open *Sabha Mandapa*. It houses a Shivalinga and the idols of *Shri Khandoba* and *Devi Mahalsa*.

The domed ceiling of the temple is adorned with exquisite paintings. The ceiling of the temple is painted with multiple themes, such as the episode of *Samudra Manthan*, Lord Krishna slaying *Bakasura* and *Aghasura*, the battle between Lord Ram and *Ravana*, the awakening of *Kumbhakaran*, *Sheshsayi Vishnu*, *Arjuna at Draupadi's svayambar*, and *Varaha* and *Narasimha* incarnations of Lord Vishnu. Mystical figures, *rasmandala*, and floral motifs can also be seen on the ceiling.

The structure is in sound condition; however, it faces issues such as cracks, delamination, and loss of plaster, darkening, and staining.



Shri Khandoba Temple, Vadodara, Gujarat



Arjuna at Draupadi's svayambar



Depiction of Samudra Manthan

Lime Research & Testing Centre (LRTC)

Achieved NABL Accreditation – It is the first Accredited Lime Testing and Research Centre in India

Lime Research and Testing Centre, INTACH, is proud to announce the successful completion of its internal audit as per the standards of National Accreditation Board

for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL). The audit, conducted as part of quality assurance and compliance efforts, reviewed the laboratory's compliance with ISO/IEC 17025 standards for testing and calibration. It has adherence to documented procedures.

The audit was led by evaluator Mr. Abhishek Kumar Singh (Quality Manager, Ecomen), and some minor nonconformities were



LRTC employees' cooperation during the audit

raised which LRTC resolved with corrective action. The results of this audit confirm that our systems are robust and operations are being conducted effectively to meet the required standards.

Conservation Works by ICI Centres

ICI DELHI

Conservation of Stone Sculpture

ICI Delhi received a limestone sculpture of a celestial nymph. The object's condition declined as a result of its extended exposure to the environment. The sculpture lacked some of its ornamental details. The object was found with extensive powdering of the limestone and has fungus stains. Earlier repairs and applied incompatible materials on it, have severely damaged the sculpture.

The cleaning procedure included removing all previous plaster repairs and to prevent powdering, the sculpture was fully consolidated. The detached parts were reattached after realigning. The area of losses was filled with compatible materials. A base and support were constructed so that the sculpture could stand upright.



Conservation of Paintings on Paper

A series of paintings on paper with mythological themes are the master copies of prints published by SS Brijbasi & Sons, Karachi, now known as Brijbasi Art Press'. The paintings include artworks made by artists like A. Pannalal Gopilal, Hiralal, P. Ghasiram, and Khubiram Gopilal; most of these artists were from Nathdwara and Mathura. While multiple



Before conservation

copies of the paintings were made as posters, the original painting itself underwent changes and deterioration. Two out of around 30 such paintings were preserved.

The paintings were cleaned; unwanted elements were removed; holes and tears were mended and colours reintegrated in the required area. The paintings were mounted in acid-free mounts.



After conservation

Conservation of Miniature Paintings

Two paintings were received for conservation and restoration. The paintings depict different themes. One of the paintings depicts the *Ram Darbar* while the other depicts *Radha Krishna* and the *Gopis dancing around them*. The objects had been previously repaired using incompatible material used for lining the painting, damaging them further. Pigment alteration caused discoloration and darkening in several areas; flaking of paint layer caused losses in the painted surface; presence of fungal spores caused damage to the object and made the paint layer more sensitive. Detaching ornamental elements like pearls and silver sheets was also observed.

These conservation and restoration paintings were created on *wasli* (a hand-made paper support), using mineral and organic pigments, natural binders, and decorative materials like gold, silver, pearls, and beetle wings. Executed in the tempera technique, miniature paintings are highly sensitive to light,



Re-fixing of decorative elements



During antifungal treatment

humidity, and physical damage, requiring careful conservation and preventive care.

In order to treat the deteriorations a conservation treatment plan was executed wherein multiple steps were taken to safeguard and maintain the integrity of the object. They were given local consolidation in order to arrest the sensitive paint layer from powdering and stabilize it for further treatment. After this infilling, conservation grade pigments were applied at the required areas. Loose and detached ornamental elements were fixed at the required sites.

Conservation of an Oil Painting

The painting had undergone previous restoration, which included an unscientific way of patch mending and the application of coating in an unprofessional way. Loss of ground layer along with paint loss, holes and tears were present in the painting. Previous retouching's on the painting turned darker with time.



Ram Darbar, after conservation



Before conservation



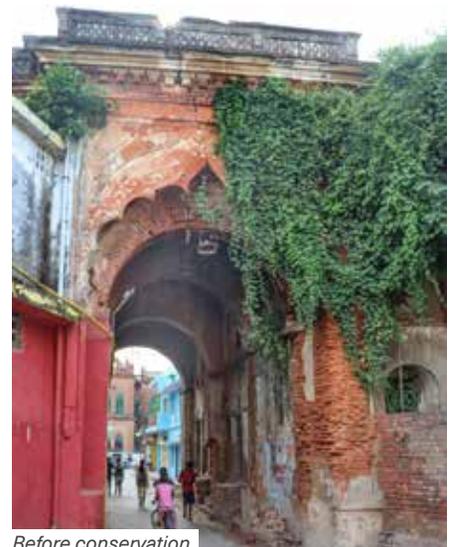
After conservation

ICI LUCKNOW

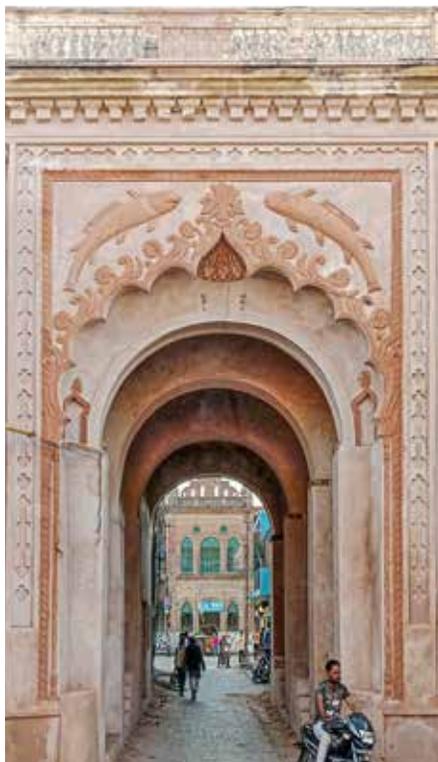
Conservation of East Gate, Balrampur, U.P.

The East Gate of Balrampur (18th-19th century A.D.) was the epicentre of Balrampur's princely estate. The significant architectural remnant of the city is the cultural and architectural heritage of the region.

The arches of the roof were completely deteriorated; moisture penetration in the walls was an important issue; detachment of plaster, oxidation of the iron sections, structural cracks were noticed on the



Before conservation



After conservation

walls of gateway. The conservation efforts taken were structural consolidation, surface cleaning and vegetation removal, lime plaster restoration, water proofing and surface protection, and sensitively reversing in appropriate alterations. The conservation project significantly enhanced the aesthetic appeal of the East Gate. The original architectural elements, once obscured by decay and insensitive alterations, were meticulously restored.

Conservation of Archival Records of Lucknow Development Authority

Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) office at Lalbagh, is the oldest records office in Lucknow. The collection comprises of Maps of Aabadi and Kistbar; Khasra registers; Sampati registers; record files of Nazool trust.

The treatment given to the maps was fumigation to disinfect biological growth, documentation and examination, dry brush cleaning, removal of stains, de-acidification by aqueous or non-aqueous method as per requirement, lining with tissue paper and cloth, mending and filling. All the maps have been conserved and now Nazool trust files needing preventive conservation are kept in fumigation bags for disinfection.

Conservation of Oil Paintings on Canvas

Two oil paintings for conservation from a private collector were full of dust and dirt having no stretcher or strainer. The edges of the canvas were fragile and rusted nail marks/holes were present on the edges. White patches/fine droplets on the paintings and stains were also visible at the back of the painting.



Solvent cleaning of the painting

The treatment given was dry cleaning, solvent cleaning, flattening of canvas, consolidation of paint layer, removal of stains, strip lining, providing a new stretcher, re-stretching of the painting, filling of lost ground, re-integration of filling areas, providing new frame and finally application of protective coating.



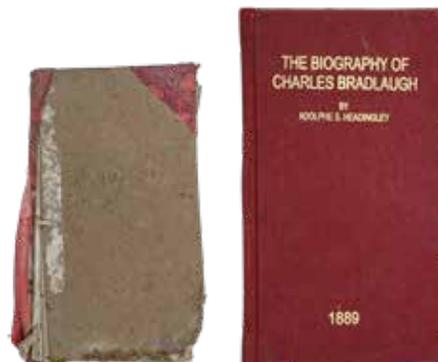
Retouching of paint areas

Conservation of books of Holmes Cullinan Library, Nagar Nigam, Gorakhpur

The collection of Holmes Cullinan Municipal Library and Record Room comprises of rare books (the period of 1821-1968) in English and Hindi, drawing and maps of the municipality of Gorakhpur. The records are written in Urdu and later in English and Hindi.

The problems noted in the books were accumulation of dust, dirt, various stains, loss of sizing material from the paper, previous restoration by cello/paper tape. The paper had become acidic, weak, brittle, discoloured and the books were infected by termite and other insects.

The treatment given was fumigation with appropriate fungicide to disinfect micro-organisms, eggs, spores, photographic and



Damaged binding cover Same after new binding

written documentation of every book, dry cleaning, removal of binding/stitching, stain removal, removal of previous restoration, deacidification, resizing, mending of tears, restitching, rebinding and restoration of original binding covers.



Before conservation



Book after conservation

Conservation of Archival Records of Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad (on-going project)

The rare books (documented in graphic and photographic form) from the Library/ Archive of Sabarmati Ashram, were protected with the following steps – 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 and lens tissue paper, preparing new sections, stitching and binding.

Conservation of Appreciation certificate of a private collector

The treatment given for an appreciation certificate was fumigation, dry cleaning of dust and fungus spores, removal of stains, neutralization, one side lining with hand made paper, mounting and framing.

ICI BANGALORE

Restoration of Traditional Thanjavur Painting

The restoration process of the painting involved the treatments of dry brush cleaning, light solvent cleaning, consolidation, and inpainting of the damaged areas. Due to the weak condition of the painting, the restoration was carried out over several days with care and patience. The study of the layers and techniques



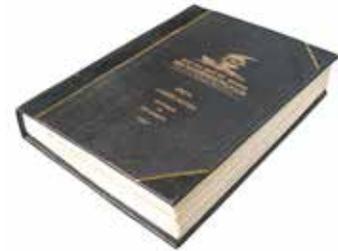
During the painting restoration – cleaning with soft brush

used in the original painting decoded its construction and restored the same in keeping with the artistic nuances.

ICI KOLKATA

Conservation of Meeting Proceedings Volumes of Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata

4 meeting proceedings volumes of the year 1968 & 1969 and 28 plans of The Port Commissioners, Calcutta, were extremely fragile in condition. Some folios were stuck with each other with fungal infection present and also had stains, tears and torn pages. All folios were deacidified and full lining with tissue paper and re-binding was done.



Meeting proceedings after conservation



Plans before & after conservation

Plans of The Port Commissioners

The portfolios contain 28 large sized plans of the years 1877-1882. The plans were first fumigated, dry brushed and stabilized with tissue strips. All the maps were deacidified and fully lined with cloth and tissue.

Textile (Pashmina Shawl)

The Shawl (120"x55") with a border in Kashmir *nakkashi* with corners of a Kashmiri paisley pattern (highly fragile, with tears), was re-stabilized with a backing cloth.



Shawl after restoration



Painting during restoration



Partially cleaning portrait

Restoration of an Oil Painting

The portrait of size 20" x 24" belongs to a family of Serampore, a city in Hooghly district where merchants traded with European countries. The flaked paint layer was consolidated and the work on cleaning continues.

Capacity Building Programmes

Illustrated Talk: Conservation and restoration of The Elokeshi Kantha was held at the 4th floor Gallery of Birla Academy of Art and Culture on 25 April 2025. The speaker Subash Baral (INTACH Kolkata) spoke on Mapping the influences of public elements on Kantha Textile.



Uma Ray, Curator of Birla Academy of Art and Culture explains the restoration process of the Kantha textile



Demonstration: dry brushing



Group discussion at ICI, Kolkata

Heritage Awareness Program

A group of undergraduate Painting students of Govt. College of Art & Craft, Calcutta along with Assistant Professor, visited INTACH conservation laboratory, Kolkata on 28-29 April, 2025.

In two days, the students were exposed to a comprehensive overview of the principles and techniques of restoration, including preventive care and conservation of paintings techniques (surface cleaning and

fungus removal treatments). Reinforcement and safeguarding of the reverse side of canvases, processes of selective repainting and appropriate framing methods for long-term preservation were discussed and demonstrated.

Loreto College

The students of History Heritage course accompanied by two teachers of Loreto College visited INTACH conservation laboratory on 8 May. The students were exposed to a comprehensive overview of the principles and techniques of restoration.



Introduction by G.M. Kapur, State Convenor, INTACH



▼ NATURAL HERITAGE



Umananda: The smallest inhabited river island in the world having a shrine to Lord Shiva

The Brahmaputra Board has entrusted INTACH with the preparation of a *Policy on the Riverine Islands of The Brahmaputra River* with the aim of developing 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. An inception report, a literature review and a field survey has been completed. The survey reveals the vulnerability of these islands to human colonization at the expense of wildlife habitats and corridors. Satellite mapping and examination of complex legal issues is in progress.

NHD visited major islands such as Dibru-Saikhowa National Park, a floating refuge of wildlife, and Majuli, the largest inhabited river island and the first to become a district. The work involved studying island morphology, ecology, land use, and human settlements. The stilted bamboo homes



Herd of wild elephants crossing a riverine island in the Brahmaputra River

of the Mishing community, known as *changghars*, stood out for their elegance and practicality. Elevated above ground to avoid floods and wildlife, they were a perfect example of traditional knowledge blending with ecological needs.

The survey covered extraordinary sightings: A herd of over 120 Asian Elephants, along with Wild Water Buffalo, Hog Deer, and

the Ganges River Dolphin, all listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List. The Slender-billed Vulture, a Critically Endangered species was spotted. Pug-marks, droppings, and tracks revealed the silent presence of tigers and elephants, showing that these islands form vital corridors between Kaziranga, Orang, Laokhowa, Burhachapori, and Dibru-Saikhowa.

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 natural characteristics, heritage architecture and several cultural facets that reflect the rich heritage of the Yamuna River basin. Thus far the districts of Uttarakhand and Haryana have been documented. Thematic maps for all 31 project districts have been developed, covering drainage (past and present), elevation, erosion-prone areas, land use/land cover (LULC), palaeochannels, and temporal shifting patterns of the river course and surrounding landscapes.

A comprehensive PowerPoint presentation showcasing the project’s progress and findings related to the states of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Haryana was presented on 20 May 2025 to the Hon’ble Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri C. R. Patil. The presentation highlighted key observations, site-specific insights, and proposed actions, and was well received during the review.



Traditional fishing using nets in the Yamuna river, Delhi

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

India’s rivers are facing a critical crisis—not only from visible pollution but more fundamentally from diminishing flows and drying riverbeds. While pollution can be addressed with existing technologies, the decline in river flows requires a deeper, multidisciplinary response involving science, technology, political will, and community engagement. The attention of governmental agencies like the CWC remains focused on major rivers, while countless smaller rivers, tributaries, and seasonal streams—vital to the health of the entire river ecosystem—remain undocumented and neglected.

At the same time, civil society organizations, citizens’ groups, and activists are increasingly engaged in river conservation through awareness campaigns and grassroots data collection. However, their efforts are often limited due to the lack of structured thinking about rivers. Recognizing this gap, the Natural Heritage Division, in partnership with the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), is developing an online course to build foundational knowledge on river systems. The course will cover key aspects such as



The ongoing production of audio-visual Modules

hydrology, law, databases, river ecology, mapping, field work and conservation strategies. This initiative aims to empower a broad range of stakeholders—including citizens, NGOs, researchers, and local officials to effectively conserve rivers, build up databases on smaller rivers and be able to communicate effectively with the establishment—through capacity building needed for effective river documentation and restoration. By creating a decentralized, network of informed “river guardians,” the program seeks to bridge community efforts with institutional action, ensuring that even the smallest streams are recognized and protected as integral parts of India’s river restoration movement.



Agricultural landscapes flanking Yamuna river in Delhi – also note sandbar formation



Rejuvenation of Indian Botanic Garden, Howrah

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

During the first quarter of the third year, vendors have been engaged for lake cleaning, construction of the interconnecting channels, lake cleaning and plantation of mangrove and exotic species. The designated site for mangrove plantation has been cleared, and bamboo

and net fencing are being installed to safeguard the plantation from tidal waves.

Approximately 2,500 saplings of exotic plant species, as per the guidance of the IBG authority, have been procured and are currently being planted across the garden. To improve the water quality of the lakes, bioremediation dosing is being carried out daily. In addition, invasive vegetation is being regularly removed as part of the lake cleaning efforts.

Landscape Conservation and Habitat Restoration in Middle Himalayas

Focused on reviving the fragile Himalayan ecosystem, the project has key ecological

practices include bio-fencing with native shrubs to protect plantations, promote natural regeneration, and prevent soil erosion.

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.

Rejuvenation of Satpula Lake

During 2024–2025, the work of restoring dry Satpula Lake of 13th Century vintage was sponsored by Rotary Club. For the 2 acre lake the water was sourced from the adjacent drain and treated through nature based solutions and bioremediation. The lake was populated by 500 carps and other fish species and has attracted spot bill ducks, grebes, water hen, moorhen, tortoises, kingfishers and herons. In about 18 months the lake has managed to recharge the aquifer with 15 million litres of water. The lake has been handed over to DDA for maintenance. It is expected to attract winter migrants in large numbers.

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,



Lake cleaning through manual extraction of invasive vegetation



Representatives of INTACH, HCL Foundation, Forest Dept, Uttarakhand and local communities came together to save our natural heritage through a plantation drive



Avian activity returns to Satpula Lake post-rejuvenation



Deteriorated condition of a traditional sewn boat at Madkai, Goa



Sealing plank gaps with Patua fiber for waterproofing

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 legacy before it is lost.

Field surveys across Goa, Bihar and 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 fibre glass and metal boats, driven by affordability and efficiency, which is leading to the decline of traditional boat-building methods. In Goa, the team focused on the rare Sewn Plank and Stitching Boat techniques, now represented by just three deteriorating examples at Colva Beach and Madkai, as well as the notable documentation of the 5th-century stitched ship *INSV Kaundinya*. In Bihar, engagement with the Nishad community highlighted their use of the ‘plank-first’ technique and Patua tree fibre for waterproofing—skills still evident in places like Chhapra, Sonapur, Bhagalpur, and Khelgaon, though many communities are transitioning to fiber or metal boats. In Varanasi, the team recorded the iconic *Jamuna Boat* near Ramnagar Fort, alongside documentation of traditional *bajra* boat-making practices in Chunar, Ramnagar, and other parts of the city.

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 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 ppm and are sustained through a delicate balance of inflows and evaporation. Despite their ecological value, including serving as key wintering grounds for migratory birds along the Central Asian Flyway, these lakes lack focused scientific research and comprehensive conservation strategies.

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. In June 2025, field visits were conducted at 11 salt lakes across Rajasthan—including Didwana, Pachpadra, Lunkaransar, and Pokharan. Early findings revealed concerning trends such as wastewater discharge, particularly at Didwana and Lunkaransar, and the encroachment of saltpans due to expanding construction, especially at Pachpadra.

The project will continue with post-monsoon reassessments at all surveyed sites to conduct in-depth biodiversity surveys and document critical ecological parameters. These assessments aim to inform long-term strategies for conserving these fragile saline lake ecosystems, recognizing their ecological, cultural, and hydrological significance in the broader context of India’s wetland conservation efforts.



Manual salt extraction at Bap Salt Pans, Rajasthan – part of the local livelihood and resource use system



Sequential stages of salt preparation at Didwana Salt Lake, Rajasthan

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

This is a project that was commissioned by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India, wherein the ICH (Intangible Cultural Heritage) Division is currently engaged in a thorough documentation of the culture and history of each and every district within Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Delhi-NCR, and Uttar Pradesh through which the Yamuna River flows.

Under this project, members of the ICH team undertake exhaustive field visits to several districts in Northern India, meeting with local stakeholders, that is, communities whose lives are either directly or indirectly tied to the Yamuna; documenting sites – sacred and historical – that have ties with or are directly associated with the river; and recording folklore, folk songs, and folk dances as well as traditional fairs and festivals to preserve them for future generations to watch, listen, and learn from. This project is culturally significant as it marks the first attempt by any person or group to document such facets of the Yamuna in the hopes of bolstering its cultural identity, covering the entire range and flow of the river from the Yamunotri Glacier to Prayagraj.

Each of the regions surveyed to date has yielded invaluable data in the form of lesser-known intangible aspects related to specific events, foodways, arts and crafts, as well as traditional practices associated with the Yamuna itself. For instance, traditional weaving on wooden handlooms at Kairana, Shamli; Hanuman Teela Dham, a site believed to be associated with the Vedic period where Lord Krishna is said to have rested the day before the War of Kurukshetra; and localities such as Gali Paranthi Wali in Chandni Chowk that continue the practice of making traditional stuffed parathas in the heart of Old Delhi.

Presently the team has finished documenting, in order, the districts of Uttarkashi, Sirmour, Tehri-Garhwal, Yamunanagar, Kurukshetra, Karnal, Panipat, Sonapat, Faridabad and Palwal, with ongoing reports for Delhi, Shamli, Baghpat, and Saharanpur. Preparations are underway to tackle the remaining districts within Uttar Pradesh, the final destination of the holy river.



Fishermen at Sur Ghat, Delhi



Evening aarti at Vasudev Ghat, Delhi



Popular traditional sweets from Chhola Wala, Delhi



Zari Zardozi design in Chandni Chowk, Delhi



Nizamuddin Dargah, Delhi



Chhatta Chowk within Red Fort, Delhi



Aarti inside the temple ; (inset) Night of the Jalabhishek ceremony, Neelkantheshwar Mahadev Mandir

documented by the members of the ICH Division in February 2025.

Dedicated to Lord Shiva, this site is a prominent pilgrimage route and is especially noted for the unique *Shivling* housed in the garbhagriha (sanctum sanctorum), for which devotees travel vast distances to perform the *Jal Abhishek* ceremony and offer their prayers in the hope their wishes are fulfilled. Especially during *Shivaratri*, the temple is kept open throughout the night and one can observe numerous folk performances and *Kathas* taking place across the temple complex, adding to the spiritual atmosphere and energizing all who visit the site.

All this and more were documented by the ICH team who have also finished compiling a documentary on the subject. At present they are creating English subtitles to make the documentary more accessible to a wider audience.



Celebrations inside the temple complex, Neelkantheshwar Mahadev Mandir

Documentation of Maha Shivaratri at Udayeshwara Neelkantheshwar Mandir, Udaypur, Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh

Nestled within Udaypur Village, Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh, is the *Udayeshwara Neelkantheshwar Mahadev Mandir*, a prime example of the Parmar dynasty pioneered Bhumija architecture. Both the village and the temple are named after Raja Udayaditya, the successor of Raja Bhoja, and there are several myths and traditions surrounding this structure which were

“The Eternal Ram” Movie

The ICH Division-produced film “The Eternal Ram” is a documentary that provides an in-depth look at the cultural history and diversity surrounding the traditions and narratives of the Ramayana across India, and how it is represented either in the form of a dance-drama, ritualistic performance, and even puppetry. Whether written text or visual or performance, the story of Shri Ram always captures our attention.

Special Screening of ‘The Eternal Ram’ for the Chairman, Shri Ashok Singh Thakur, and the Member Secretary, Shri Ravindra Singh



The divine idea of ‘The Eternal Ram’ is relevant and inspiring for all humanity, beyond the boundaries of religion. His divine form not only connects our collective consciousness but also makes it brighter. That is the key message and tone throughout the film.

On 24 June 2025, a film screening was organized at INTACH where the first version of the film was shown to the Chairman, Shri Ashok Singh Thakur, and Member Secretary, Shri Ravindra Singh, who greatly appreciated the research, content presentation and narration in the film. Their suggestions are being incorporated in the final version of the film, soon to be completed.

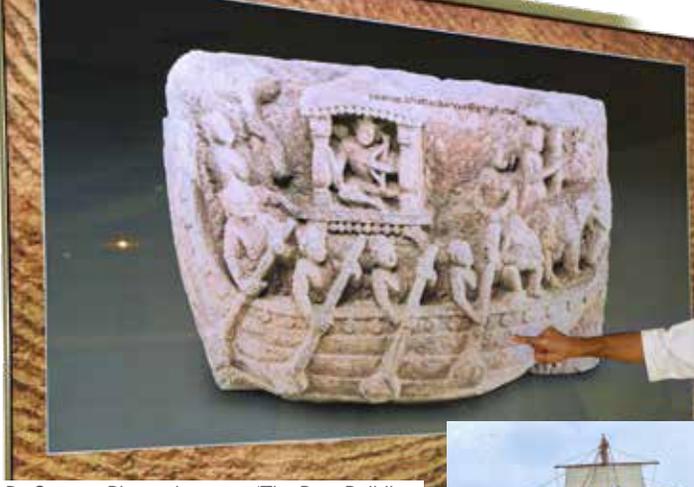
Flowing Legacies: Mapping the Intangible Heritage of India's Maritime and Riverine Cultures

Across India's vast rivers and coastal belts, generations of communities have lived in rhythm with water—singing to it, building with it, worshipping it, and reading its tides. Recognising the urgent need to document these fragile knowledge systems, the ICH Division has undertaken the “Flowing Legacies” project, a national level research initiative dedicated to document and interpret the intangible traditions that flow with India's maritime and riverine cultures. These traditions range from myths, songs, and ritual performances to boat-making knowledge, ecological wisdom, gendered practices, and oral histories.

This national project sets out to record the voices and practices of fisherfolk, boatmakers, pilgrims, and riverside communities whose lives are woven into the ebb and flow of sacred rivers and coastal tides. It explores how memory, movement, ritual, and craftsmanship converge around water bodies—not just as livelihoods, but as cultural identity. The project employs a layered methodological approach, including ethnographic fieldwork, audio-visual documentation, GIS mapping of ritual geographies and navigation routes, and selective 3D modelling of traditional boats and ceremonial artefacts. Emphasis is placed on participatory documentation and ethical engagement with local knowledge holders.

Currently, the team is engaged in Phase I of the fieldwork, focusing on the Godavari River and the Konkan coast. Field visits are underway in locations such as Nashik, Rajahmundry, Dowleswaram, Goa, Sindhudurg, and Ratnagiri. These areas are being studied for their rich intangible traditions, including river-based rituals, seasonal boat festivals, devotional songs, and caste and gender based knowledge systems linked to water.

Phase II, planned for later this year, will expand the study to the Brahmaputra basin (Assam), coastal Odisha, and the Bengal delta. The research also explores the role of intangible heritage in contemporary



Dr. Swarup Bhattacharya on 'The Boat Building Traditions of India with Focus on Eastern India'

challenges such as climate resilience and community-led conservation, and proposes the development of a pan-Asian maritime cultural route.

Through this effort, INTACH continues to foreground the vital, yet often overlooked, cultural landscapes of India's rivers and seas. The project seeks to reimagine cultural routes, foster community participation, and highlight the enduring role of water in shaping India's intangible heritage.

ICH Participation in “Stitched Ship Project” and “Maritime Heritage of India” Lecture Series

On 21 May 2025, the ICH Division had the honour of witnessing a historic milestone — the induction of INSV Kaundinya into the Indian Navy at Karwar Naval Base, Karnataka. This exceptional vessel is a faithful recreation of a 5th century stitched ship, inspired by the maritime imagery depicted in the Ajanta cave murals. Reviving this ancient technology, the ship was crafted by the master shipwrights of Kerala using traditional techniques that forgo nails and instead employ coir stitching — a method emblematic of India's sophisticated maritime legacy.

Named after *Kaundinya*, an early Indian mariner and emissary of Indian culture to Southeast Asia, the vessel represents a confluence of heritage, craftsmanship, and historical imagination. The ship was formally inducted by the Hon'ble Union Minister of Culture & Tourism, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, underscoring the cultural significance of this maritime revival.

(Right) Local fisherman displaying his catch of the day, Karwar



INSV Kaundinya, Karwar



Shipbuilding in progress, Karwar



Shipbuilding in progress, Karwar



Glimpse of local fish market, Karwar





(Left) Smt. Nerupama Modwel (PD, ICH) with Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Minister of Culture & Tourism; (Right) with Dr. Sanjeev Sanyal, at Naval Base, Karwar



Smt. Nerupama Modwel with Shri Babu Sankaran (Shipwright), Naval Base, Karwar

The ICH team engaged with several pivotal figures involved in this initiative, including Shri Sanjeev Sanyal, noted economist, author, and member of the Prime Minister’s Economic Advisory Council, who served as the conceptual force behind this project, advocating for a renewed recognition of India’s maritime past; and Shri Babu Sankaran, the master shipwright responsible for constructing the vessel, and one of the few remaining custodians of the ancient stitching technique.

Following the induction ceremony, the ICH Division conducted field documentation along the Karnataka coastline, covering Karwar, *Baithkul*, *Gokarn*, *Ankola*, *Belekeri*, and *Hanuvvara*. This fieldwork focused on traditional maritime practices, local navigation knowledge, and the enduring cultural connections of coastal communities — particularly fishing families and boatmen — who uphold India’s sea-faring traditions.

In the course of documentation, several key individuals and institutions contributed invaluable knowledge and insights: Ms. Fatima Da Silva Gracias, Convener of the INTACH Goa Chapter, offered crucial

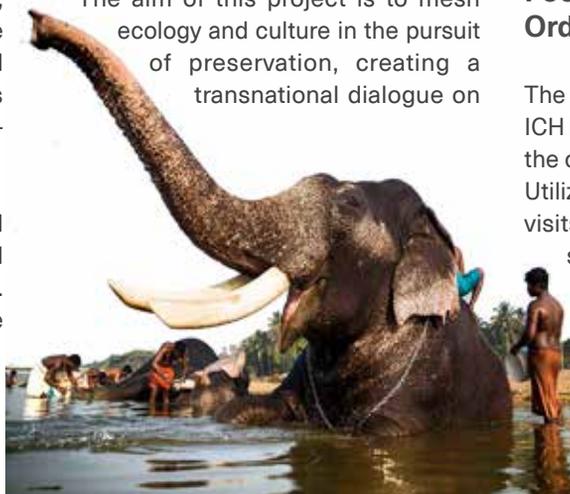
guidance on regional maritime heritage linkages in the Goa region; Prof. Prajal Sakhardande (Demphe College), a renowned scholar on Goan coastal history, contributed interpretative frameworks for understanding maritime heritage in the broader Western Indian Ocean and the Kharvi Community; and Mr. Manjunath Nagarable of Durga Boatmakers Ltd., Hannoor, lent technical insights into regional boatbuilding traditions and evolving craft practices.

In line with the ideals and visions of this project, a lecture series was organized from 13-16 May on the topic of “Maritime Heritage of India”. It involved four eminent guest speakers – Dr. Sanjeev Sanyal, Dr. Swarup Bhattacharya, Dr. Rajiv Nigam, and Dr. Vasant Shinde. The lecture given by Dr. Swarup Bhattacharya on the topic of “The Boat Building Traditions of India with Focus on Eastern India” was a joint collaboration between the ICH and Cultural Affairs Divisions.

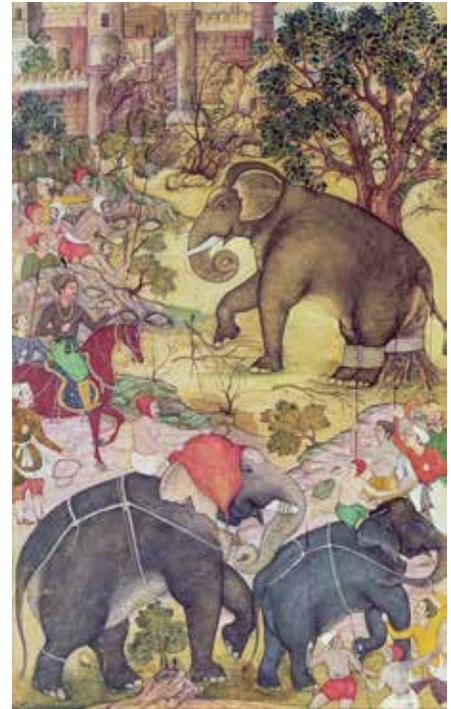
Sarva Lok: All Worlds/A World for All

The ICH Division is currently involved in the Sarva Lok project, a transnational nature-culture series modelled around diverse biocultural expressions, and will trace our historical and cultural associations with Gaja, the elephant. Preliminary work on the project has focused on in-depth research on topics such as the cultural (*Story of Gajendra Moksha*), religious (involvement of elephants in ritual ceremonies), and historical (elephants captured and used as war animals) association of elephants in India.

The aim of this project is to mesh ecology and culture in the pursuit of preservation, creating a transnational dialogue on



An elephant being bathed



Emperor Akbar inspecting a captured wild elephant (miniature from Akbarnama, currently housed in the Victoria and Albert Museum)

environmental regeneration through the documentation and presentation of cultural narratives presented through folklore, iconography, arts and craft and performance traditions, as well as initiatives to spread awareness of environmental change and impact. This would be done through a series of programmes including conferences/seminars, publications, exhibitions and transnational inscriptions among other mediums. The ultimate goal of the program will be the deliverance of tangible outcomes in collective management of natural environments and their associated cultural identities. Preliminary work on the theme of the project has begun.

Foods of India: Sacred and Ordinary

The aim of this project undertaken by the ICH Division is to explore and understand the culinary history and heritage of India. Utilizing primary data obtained from field visits and secondary data from textual sources and archives, extensive data has been secured which has been



Assortment of rice; rice beer; and paddy fields of Tamil Nadu

presented in reports following food-based themes including — Rice, Fish, Coconut, Milk, and Chicken.

Building off of these reports and findings, a two-day food festival event titled *Staple to Sacred: Culinary Identities and Rice Landscapes of India* has been planned.

International Yoga Day Workshop

On the eve of International Yoga Day, an informative workshop titled *Five Yogic Tools for Overall Wellbeing* was conducted by Dr. Alka Tyagi and Seema Tyagi at INTACH on 20 June 2025.

The objective of this workshop was to guide people on simple yogic techniques, and all participants underwent the five traditional practices over the course of the workshop — Asana, Pranayama, Yoga Nidra, Mantra, and Meditation. The workshop was organized by the Cultural Affairs Division and coordinated by the ICH Division.

Social Media Engagement and Outreach

The ICH Division has consistently curated and shared content across its official social media platforms, on distinctive topics and projects such as the ‘Yamuna Cultural Documentation’, ‘Foods of India’, ‘Stitched Ships’ and ‘Patna Kalam Painting Workshop’. Using the footage and information documented by members of the ICH team on the field, these posts provide a key visual and detailed insight on some of the lesser-known traditions and cultures of India.

Several of these posts have been developed in collaboration with respective INTACH Chapters on Instagram to enhance outreach and engagement.



Dr. Alka Tyagi and Seema Tyagi



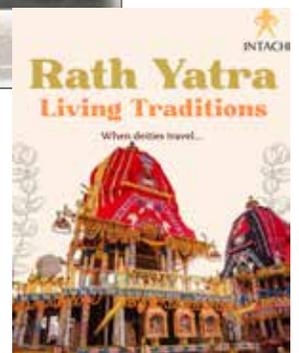
Demonstration of some poses



Token of appreciation presented to Dr. Alka Tyagi and Seema Tyagi by the Chairman, Shri Ashok Singh Thakur, and Vice-Chairman, Prof. Sukhdev Singh



Instagram post on accolades of ‘Kumbh – The Nectar of Faith’



Instagram post on Rath Yatra



HERITAGE CRAFT AND COMMUNITY

6th INTACH Martand Singh Memorial Award 2024 – Announcement of winners

This is a unique award to recognize crafts and craftspeople who have been ignored or forgotten. This year, Heritage Craft and Community Division (HCCD) received a whopping 30 applications from across the country reflecting the eclectic and unique craftsmanship of artisans with an exceptional quality and range. The award was conceptualized in 2018 in the memory of Shri Martand Singh with an intent to support the unique craftsmanship and artisanal wisdom prevailing in the country and to provide skilled artisans with dignified recognition. The award has been instrumental in supporting practitioners with a monetary benefit of one lakh each, along with a citation which provides them with recognition and a zeal to continue their craft despite the adversities and challenges posed by changing times.

The Selection Committee comprised the following members who selected the awardees for the 6th INTACH Martand Singh Memorial Award 2024:

- Dr. Ritu Sethi – Craft Revival Trust
- Ms. Katyayani Agarwal – Datri Foundation and Executive Council Member, INTACH
- Ms. Malvika Pathania – State Convenor, Himachal Pradesh

The Chairman Special Award was awarded to Mr. Prudhivi Venkateswarlu for his unique *Paga* (turban) making tradition and ritual. The practice of *pagalankarana* is practiced on the night of Mahashivratri at the Srisailam Temple. The weaver weaves a special white turban and has to adorn the statue of Lord Shiva in a ritual, completed the absolute darkness. Mr. Prudhivi Venkateswarlu is a third-generation weaver practicing this tradition.

The Committee also recommended 5 Special Mention Awards to the following who are to be awarded with Rs. 25,000 and a citation each:

- Mr. Kailash Chand Prajapat – Lime Plaster and Stucco Carving (*Building Crafts*)
- Ms. Arunita Datta – Eco- printing (*Handloom*)
- Ms. Sebaty Sisha – Kerang Weaving (*Handloom*)
- Mr. Jowa Dondu – Monpa Shoes (*Handicraft*)
- Ms. Srila Mookherjee – Glass Blowing (*Handicraft*)

HCCD Advisory Committee Meeting

The HCCD Advisory Committee was held on 27 March 2025 at INTACH, New Delhi. The following were present for the Committee Meeting:

- Chairman – Mr. Ashok Singh Thakur
- Member Secretary – Mr. Ravindra Singh (IAS, Retd.)
- Dr. Ritu Sethi – Craft Revival Trust
- Ms. Katyayani Agarwal – Datri Foundation and Executive Council Member, INTACH
- Ms. Malvika Pathania – State Convenor, Himachal Pradesh
- Ms. Vandana Bindu Manchanda – Head, HCCD
- Mr. Praveen Tiwari – Programme Coordinator
- Ms. Radhika Malhotra – Project Associate

Ms. Vandana Bindu Manchanda made a presentation to the committee highlighting the initiatives and various projects being undertaken by the division.

1. Ms. Afia Khan – Silver Footwear (*Handicraft*);
2. Mohd. Asgar Alam – Block Printing (*Handloom*)
3. Mr. Ramawatar Kumawat – Lime and Araiish Plaster (*Building Crafts*);
4. Chairman Special Award – Mr. Prudhivi Venkateswarlu for his unique Paga (turban) making tradition and ritual

The artisans selected were the following for the 6th INTACH Martand Singh Memorial Award 2024.

- Ms. Afia Khan – Silver Footwear (*Handicraft*)
- Mohd. Asgar Alam – Block Printing (*Handloom*)
- Mr. Ramawatar Kumawat – Lime and Araiish Plaster (*Building Crafts*)



Shri Ashok Singh Thakur, Chairman, Shri Ravindra Singh, Member Secretary, Members for the HCCD Advisory Committee and HCCD Team



Training Workshop at VVBIS & IS, Sadhu Ashram, Hoshiarpur

The Division successfully concluded a training workshop in collaboration with the Art and Material Heritage Division on the Preventive Conservation of rare manuscripts for the creation of a museum at VVBIS & IS (Panjab University), Sadhu Ashram, Hoshiarpur. The prestigious institute is in possession of rare birch bark and palm leaf manuscripts belonging to Shri Acharya Vishwabandhu Ji, one of India's most respected Sanskrit scholars and a collector of ancient manuscripts – showing the ancient craft of calligraphy and paintings made with natural pigments dating back to the 10th century. A community museum is envisaged in the future.



(Top to Bottom)
Rare birch bark manuscripts in possession with VVBIS and IS;
A rare pigmented palm leaf manuscript found at VVBIS and IS;
Preventive Conservation workshop in process

Head, HCCD has been appointed as an Advisory Member by the Vice Chancellor, Panjab University for the development of the museum at VVBIS & IS, Sadhu Ashram, Hoshiarpur.

Documentation of the INTACH Directory of Traditional Building Crafts of Goa: Vol 7- in collaboration with Goa Chapter (Ongoing)

The project aims to capture the essence of Goa's unique architectural crafts, which showcases the region's rich cultural heritage. The focus is on documenting both traditional Goan and Portuguese architectural crafts, reflecting their historical significance in various buildings,



A traditional Goan home

temples, churches, and mansions. The publication will provide detailed documentation of these building crafts, including photographs, materials, craft techniques, and surveys. Additionally, it will feature a comprehensive directory of artisans and craftspeople actively engaged in these traditional crafts. The documentation for the Directory is near completion and the designing of the document is in process.

INTACH Directory of Traditional Building Crafts – Art Deco

On the occasion of its centenary year of the Art Deco Movement in India, the Division will commence the documentation of the craftsmanship and building crafts employed during the Movement since it arrived in India in the 1930s.

The directory will document the craftsmanship, the various architectural crafts infused in the making of geometric patterns, eclectic colors, relief patterns, motifs inspired by their surroundings and influence, in sync with Indian sensibility albeit quite dressed down and simplistic

(Left and Right)
Traditional Goan homes accentuated with architectural elements, remnants of the rich cultural legacy of the region





in addition to the flooring techniques. The publication will provide detailed documentation of these architectural crafts, including photographs, materials, building techniques, and surveys.

Revival of Puneri Saree Weaving Tradition in collaboration with Pune Chapter

The Division has successfully revived the languishing Puneri Saree Weaving Tradition through recurrent training workshops. The project in collaboration with the Pune Chapter is in the last phase. The artisans have produced the first batch of sarees with revival design inputs and the four designs are in the weaving process, which will be completed shortly.

Documentation of the Crafts of Bhuleshwar – Kalbadevi precinct of Mumbai

A project in collaboration with the Greater Mumbai Chapter which initiated a project to document the vanishing art and craft communities presiding in the Bhuleshwar-Kalbadevi area of Mumbai. The team has extensively surveyed, documented and interviewed various artisans practicing an array of unusual crafts. Additional research, compilation and editing of the data is being done by HCCD.

Designs revived under the Revival of the extinct Puneri saree project



(Above & Below) Die-cutters fighting an uphill battle to keep their craft alive with the advent of modern machinery; The craft of Naqqashi, an underrated yet significant craft associated with jewelry making



Documenting murti making traditions of India – A clay idol coming to life

Documentation of Idol Making Traditions of India

The research and compilation of the *kadli* art making tradition, the mask making tradition associated with Hill Jatra and clay idols crafted during the Harela festival, stone idols of Patal Bhuvneshwar Temple and Jageshwar Temple of the Kumaon region has been completed. The team also documented the Dhwaja Yatra mask making tradition associated with the Ramman festival and ancillary idol traditions of the Garhwal region.

The unique Phool bangla tradition of the Braj-Vrindavan region has been documented as part of the Idol Making

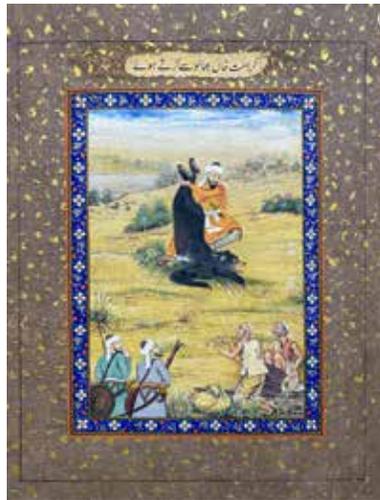


The Phool bangla being hand crafted with an array of flowers

Ajrakh block printing being practiced with natural dyes in the Bhuleshwar area of Mumbai



Traditions of India project. This remarkable tradition is carried out only in the months of May-June. The HCCD team visited Shri Radha Vallabh Temple, Banke Bihari Temple and Radha Raman Temple at Vrindavan to document this centuries old tradition. They use a mix of jasmine, rose garlands, banana stems and lush foliage to not only create delicate, fragrant *bangla*/ arched sanctuaries for the divine to reside but also use the flowers as clothes and jewelry to adorn the deity.



A painting inspired by the Mughal School Art

A 3-day summer immersive Programme for Thanjavur Chapter

The Division prepared a 3-day summer immersive Programme on the request of the Thanjavur Chapter. The schedule was curated with an intent to expose the students to the wider Indian context of Indian craft, culture, communities and art forms through various workshops and demonstrations with artisans practicing traditional crafts from across the country as well as inviting renowned historians and heritage professionals to conduct relevant talks and lead heritage walks.



One of Vishnu Ji's Bazar style of painting documenting the mundane life of the local people

Sacred Waste Training Workshop – An initiative to convert floral waste into incense sticks and cones. In collaboration with INTACH Chapters workshops are regularly conducted, which provide a sustainable solution to curb the rising hazard posed by improper disposal of floral waste and to also ensure a source of livelihood for the marginalized sector, especially women. 15 Chapters have shown interest in conducting training workshops in their region. The first workshop will be held in Sholapur, Maharashtra.

Documenting the Crafting of Miniature Paintings by Vishnu Agarwal Ji

The HCCD team visited Shri. Vishnu Agarwal to document his vast knowledge and expertise in miniature paintings. With experience of five decades, he is specialized in Persian, Indo-Persian, Pahari and Mughal schools of miniature

painting. He explained the various themes and schools of painting commissioned by him. He is an experienced artist and master in various techniques of paintings on paper and ivory using natural pigments, handmade paper and brushes. The team will document the process, techniques, tools and pigments used by Vishnu Ji to make miniature paintings.

Elle Décor, India

Head-HCCD has been appointed as an Advisory Member for Elle Décor, India for her invaluable work at INTACH and deep knowledge of heritage, design, and crafts to explore and feature stories that bridge cultural legacy with contemporary design.

Shri Ashok Singh Thakur, Chairman, has donated the Legacy Stamp Album to the INTACH Knowledge Centre (IKC). It was released on 27 January, 2009 by Hon'ble Minister,

Shri. Jyotiraditya Scindia Ji on the occasion of INTACH's Silver Jubilee.

Capacity Building Workshop for INTACH Members | 29 April -1 May

Head, HCCD, highlighted the various initiatives and projects undertaken by the division during her address with an array of craft communities and artisans since its inception.

The Division has designed the INTACH Tree which stands as a vibrant symbol of our shared heritage, rooted in craft, culture, and community. As the tree continues to grow, the names of current Chairman, Member Secretary and Vice Chairman of INTACH have been added.

INTACH Calligraphic Tree



Mr. Inku Kumar (Calligrapher), Head-HCC and the Programme Coordinator

Presentation of the album to Chairman by Head, HCCD



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 Training Workshops

✓ DELHI

19 APRIL, 2025 | 63 TEACHERS |
57 SCHOOLS

HECS organized a teacher training workshop at INTACH for Delhi-NCR schools. The PD, HECS spoke on INTACH's role and the importance of heritage education. The HECS team introduced HECS publications, and the new publication '*Built Heritage for Young Hands*' which was released by INTACH Chairman, Vice Chairman and historian Dr. Swapna Liddle. Dr. Liddle spoke on Shahjahanabad's built heritage, while Dr. Narayani Gupta explored Delhi's rural past and local history. Head, Architectural Heritage Division, highlighted conservation success stories. Participants toured INTACH's Conservation Lab and viewed HECS resources. Public historian Mr. Anirudh Kanisetti concluded the day with an engaging talk on temple architecture in peninsular India, focusing on linguistic and cultural diversity across the region shaped architectural forms, especially on the Deccan plateau.



Delhi

INTACH Peshwa Haveli, once a stop for the Maratha Peshwas, focused on Anna Kshetra—a space for serving food to Marathi pilgrims. Participants learned about the Laxmi Narayan Murti at the Haveli, which is linked to Goddess Annapurna and her symbolism of nourishment. The walk also highlighted INTACH Varanasi's efforts in preserving such sites.

✓ VARANASI

24- 25 APRIL 2025 | 46 PARTICIPANTS | 24 SCHOOLS

HECS in collaboration with the INTACH Varanasi Chapter, held a two-day Teacher Training Workshop at Little Flower House, Nagwa. The workshop was attended by Ms. Aditi Gulati, Mr. Nalin Gulati, Mr. Ashok Kapoor (Convenor), and other dignitaries. Sessions on Day 1 included talks by Mr. Akhilesh Kumar on Varanasi's built heritage, Mr. Raj Kumar on the city's food culture, and HECS sessions on types of heritage, heritage education, and setting up Heritage Clubs by the HECS team. Day 2 featured a heritage walk at Peshwa Haveli, led by Mr. Ashok Kapoor and Mr. Anil Kesari, followed by an introduction to the Built Heritage book. Teachers presented creative group activities on Varanasi's heritage.

Christian Girls' Higher Secondary School is the oldest educational institution in the Garo Hills. Established in 1920, it reflects the rich legacy of the missionary era and continues to celebrate local culture by incorporating traditions like the Garo Wangala dance into its curriculum.

✓ TURA

24- 25 APRIL 2025 | 25 TEACHERS | 11 SCHOOLS

HECS in collaboration with the INTACH Meghalaya Chapter, conducted a two-day Teacher Training Workshop at Mission Compound Hall, Tura. Key participants included Dr. Ramona M. Sangma (Co-convenor Meghalay Chapter), Chapter members Dr. L. K. Gracy, Pangsang Rudy N. Sangma, and from HECS, Ms. Purnima Datt and Ms. Christina Shangne. Day 1 featured sessions by Dr. Ramona on Garo Oral Culture and by Ms. Datt on "What is Heritage?" and heritage education. Day 2 began with a heritage walk to key sites like Krima IV monument, Principal's residence built in 1933, Tura Baptist Church (1877) etc., followed by presentations on HECS resources and group activities on Tura's heritage.



Tura



▼ GANGTOK

8 - 9 MAY 2025 | 40 TEACHERS | 20 SCHOOLS

HECS in collaboration with the INTACH Sikkim Chapter organized a Teacher Training Workshop attended by teachers from schools across the region. The workshop began with a welcoming speech by Dr Charishma Lepcha, Sikkim Convenor, followed by a session by Dr Anira P Lepcha, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Sikkim University. She talked about heritage and the different facets of heritage in great detail, highlighting the unique and local heritage of the state and how it can be taught in classrooms. Session on 'What is heritage?' was carried out by the HECS team to explain the tangible and intangible forms of heritage. The teachers presented an engaging group activity.



Gangtok



Felicitation of teachers at Gangtok Training Workshop



Bharuch



Teacher activity at Bharuch Training workshop

▼ BHARUCH

13 - 14 JUNE 2025 | 95 TEACHERS | 95 SCHOOLS

HECS in collaboration with the INTACH Bharuch Chapter and Rotary Club, Bharuch, held a two-day Teacher Training Workshop at the Rotary Club, Bharuch. Teachers from across the city participated, along with key guests including Ms. Pilloo Sarosh Ginwalla, Ms. Sujata Mukund Rao, Ms. Archana Patel (INTACH Bharuch Chapter), Ms. Rachana Poddar (President, Rotary Club), and Ms. Swati K. Raol (District Education Officer) and the HECS team. Day 1 featured sessions by architect Mr. Ashwin Modi on "Bharuch: A Hindu Town beyond Myth and Map," Mr. Das on INTACH's work and heritage types, and Mr. Mahesh Thakkar on Dashaashwamegh Ghat. Day 2 included a virtual heritage walk of Bharuch by Mr. Divyajeet Singh Zala, a film on HECS, discussions on Heritage Clubs and digital initiatives, and creative group presentations by teachers. Ms. Rizwana Zamindar showcased Sujani craft.

Bharuch is the second-oldest city of India having continuous habitations, first being Kashi (Varanasi). Bharuch Sujani, a traditional quilt-making art that originated in Bharuch, Gujarat, in the 1860s, has recently been awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, bringing it greater recognition and value. Sujani is unique as it is the only textile handloom crafted exclusively by weavers of Bharuch.

▼ BARAMATI

24 - 25 JUNE 2025 | 54 TEACHERS | 29 SCHOOLS

HECS in collaboration with the INTACH Pune Chapter, held a two-day Teacher Training Workshop at Vidya Pratishthan's School of Architecture (VPSOA), Baramati. School teachers across Baramati, Bor, Supe, and Indapur participated. The inaugural session featured Prof. Rajshree Patil (Principal, VPSOA), Principal Director, HECS, Ar. Jui Tawade, Ms. Supriya Goturkar (Co-Convenors, Pune Chapter), and the HECS team. Day 1 sessions included Dr. Seemantini Chaphalkar's talk on the heritage of Pune and Baramati, highlighting historic sites and emphasizing community participation. Ms. Datt introduced the concept of heritage, followed by Ar. Jui's session on Pune's layered history, architectural styles, and Pune Chapter's initiatives. PD, HECS also discussed the importance of heritage education and how to set up heritage clubs. Day 2 commenced

An engaging teacher-led presentation showcased the Pandharpur Wari, a vibrant 21-day annual pilgrimage where devotees walk for 250 km for 21-days in devotion to Lord Vitthal, celebrating faith, unity, and tradition.



with a heritage walk to significant sites in Baramati led by Dr. Chaphalkar and Mr. Joshi. After the walk the teachers showcased creative presentations through role play, storytelling, and visual displays.

Jain manuscripts, miniature paintings, and sculptures of the LD Museum showcased textile details. One such artefact was an intricate Jain painting of the concept of 7 levels of life. It highlighted the rich textile heritage of India through the patterns in the painting, the depiction of special clothing and designs, as well as their usage.

▼ AHMEDABAD

1 - 2 JULY 2025 | 44 PARTICIPANTS | 19 SCHOOLS

HECS in collaboration with the INTACH Ahmedabad Chapter, organized a two-day Teacher Training Workshop on Textile Education at the Lalbhai Dalpatbhai Museum. The workshop opened with a welcome by Ms. Utpala Desai (Convenor, Ahmedabad Chapter), followed by PD, HECS introducing the concept of living heritage through stories, a film screening, and discussions on textiles as part of India's natural, built, material, and living heritage.

Ms. Sujata Parsai (Director, LD Museum) delivered an insightful session on the history of trade textiles, from the Indus Valley to global markets, while Ms. Shilpa Patel (Crafts Council of Gujarat) spoke about documenting textiles and integrating textile education into schools. Teachers also participated in interactive textile games. Hands-on activities included tie-and-dye (Bandhani) and Patola weaving sessions by Ms. Vineeta Nahar, along with a presentation by PD, HECS on sari drapes. Day 2 featured a guided museum tour by Ms. Parsai and Ms. Priyanka Kundu, showcasing Jain manuscripts, miniature paintings, and textile motifs. Mr. Pranav Gupta (India Recycles) presented on sustainability, urging schools to hold textile reuse initiatives. Closing remarks by Ms. Utpala Desai and Mr. Kalpesh Dalal (Co-Convenor, Ahmedabad Chapter), emphasized the importance of textile heritage.



Students at Delhi College Documentation Workshop with IHA

College Heritage Volunteer Training Workshop

▼ DELHI

22 APRIL 2025 | 56 STUDENTS | 9 COLLEGES

HECS, in collaboration with INTACH Heritage Academy, organized a workshop on Introduction to Heritage Documentation for undergraduate students of Delhi colleges. PD, HECS introduced INTACH's work and conservation initiatives, followed by a film screening. Director, INTACH Heritage Academy and the team, led sessions on the meaning and values of heritage and discussed methods for documenting intangible cultural heritage, including interviews and mapping. The workshop concluded with case studies on Chakrata and Mandvi.

Specialised Activity

Tree of Life Workshop | 8-9 MAY 2025

HECS in collaboration with the Sikkim Chapter, participated in the Kuzu Cultural Festival's Sikkim Literature Festival on 8 May 2025. The festival, organized at Manan Bhawan by the State Central Library, celebrated 50 years of Sikkim's statehood and was inaugurated by Mr. G.T. Dhungel, Minister of Health and Family Welfare & Culture, along with other dignitaries. The festival was curated by Ms Mary Therese Kurkalang with support from Mr Raman Shresta, as part of a panel on Children's Literature and the role of books amongst the Youth.



Gangtok



HECS conducted a specialised 'Tree of Life' workshop for 45 middle school students from Gangtok. The HECS team introduced natural heritage through interactive discussions, a sensory game using tree-related objects, and creative activities like colouring worksheets and scrapbook ideas.

Kala Utsav Winners Heritage Walk and Workshop 13 MAY 2025

HECS, INTACH, in collaboration with NCERT, organized a workshop for Kala Utsav winners attending the Pratibha Samvardhan Programme at National Bal Bhavan, Delhi.

The day began with a heritage walk at Lodhi Gardens for 80 participants, led by the HECS team. PD, HECS introduced INTACH's educational initiatives, screened a film on its work, and held a session on tangible, intangible, and natural heritage. Participants also interacted with an award-winning Chhau dancer from Jharkhand. The day concluded with a tour of INTACH's Conservation Laboratory, where participants were shown demonstration of preservation techniques for textiles, paintings, and artefacts.



Kalam workshop – Patna



Banaras miniature painting – Varanasi



Specialised craft workshop – Patna



Kala Utsav

Discover Your Living Heritage Endangered Art and Craft Workshops (in collaboration with respective Chapters)

✓ PATNA

Patna Kalam training camp was organized by Patna Art College campus and INTACH Patna Chapter from 12 May to 19 May 2025 in collaboration with HECS. The camp was attended by 50 students of Patna schools. Resource Persons of the 7-days long event were senior artist Sunita Prakash, Ankur Kumar and Rupesh Kumar who guided the students with step-by-step process of making the art. INTACH Patna Chapter took an interesting initiative and conducted an endangered art and crafts workshop on traditional clay modelling for 52 art teachers of Patna on 8 July, who had hands-on experience on creating products.

✓ VARANASI

INTACH Varanasi Chapter conducted an endangered art and craft workshop on Banaras Miniature Painting on 15 and 17 July for approximately 100 students of Little Flower House, Kakarmatta and Nagwa and Sunbeam School, Mughalsarai. The resource persons of the event were Shri Daya Shankar and Shri Gokul Prajapati.

Publications and Website

Young INTACH Newsletters



World Heritage Wonders

(APRIL-JUNE 2025) IN ENGLISH AND HINDI

This newsletter delves into World Heritage Sites of India and acts as a brief repository for information on these sites. With the use of text, illustrations, activities, and interactive games, the newsletter helps readers understand the outstanding value of these sites, their uniqueness, as well as the reason why they have been put on UNESCO's prestigious list.

India's Multi-Hued Headgears

(JULY-SEPTEMBER 2025)
IN ENGLISH AND HINDI

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



Anniversary Issue Newsletter on Built Heritage for 20 years of the Young INTACH Newsletter

This publication 'India's Built Heritage for Young Hands' has been specially developed for students, teachers and heritage enthusiasts. It is a compilation of HECS' Young INTACH Built Heritage Issues from 2004 to 2024 and contains some of the best articles and activities.

Adopt a Performing Art

The fourth issue of the *Adopt a Heritage* series, this book focusses on adopting a performing art. It aims to strengthen the understanding of different performing art traditions, their rich past, styles, artistic achievements and its relevance in society today. Further it will help in creating awareness on the need to preserve our performing arts.

Reprint of Adopt Series – Adopt a Tree, Adopt a Monument, and Adopt a Craft

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

Ongoing

- Story cum Colouring Book on Mizoram
- Assamese Translation of Moloa Braids a River Journey
- Reprint of Heritage Club Passports



Young INTACH Website

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

E-Newsletter

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

Social Media

Challenges taken up in the month of April – July 2025

MONTH	CHALLENGE
April	• Earth Day Challenge
May	• Local Biodiversity Watch Challenge • Museum Day Challenge • Heritage Beacon Award
June	• World Music Day Challenge • World Yoga Day Challenge • World Bicycle Day Challenge
July	• Van Mahotsav Challenge • World Snake Day





National Programmes

Celebrating India – National Poster Making Competition

GUWAHATI | 8 APRIL

The 'Celebrating India' poster-making competition was organized by the Kamrup Chapter and Assam State Chapter at the Royal Global University, Betkuchi, Guwahati. A total of 63 students from 7 schools participated in the competition. Vice Chancellor of Royal Global University Prof. Y.S.R. Murthy graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

BHAGALPUR | 22 FEBRUARY

INTACH Bhagalpur Chapter organised the Celebrating India poster making competition at Divine Happy School, Mirjanhat, Bhagalpur. Dr. K. D. Prabhat, Convenor, Dr. Wibhu Kumar Roy, Additional Co-convenor, and Dr. Anita Pandey, MD of Divine Happy School were present for the event. 75 students from 5 schools participated in the competitions who were accompanied by their teachers.

GAYA | 15 APRIL

Organized the Celebrating India poster-making competition at D. A. V. School, Cantt. Area, Gaya.

PATNA | 20 APRIL

Patna Chapter in collaboration with Your Heritage organized the poster-making competition at the Patna Museum. 20 students from 5 schools participated in this competition.

JAMMU | MARCH-APRIL 2025

INTACH Jammu Chapter organised the Celebrating India poster making competition in three phases on different dates. A total of 249 students from 25 schools participated in the competition. The events were graced by an inspiring address by Mr. S.M. Sahni, Convener INTACH Jammu Chapter who briefed the students about INTACH and the poster making competition.

Best Chapter Awards

- INTACH Gurgaon Chapter
- INTACH Ambala Chapter
- INTACH Ayodhya Chapter
- INTACH Solapur Chapter
- INTACH Jammu Chapter
- INTACH Anantapur Chapter
- INTACH Visakhapatnam Chapter
- INTACH Karauli Chapter
- INTACH Mahbubnagar Chapter

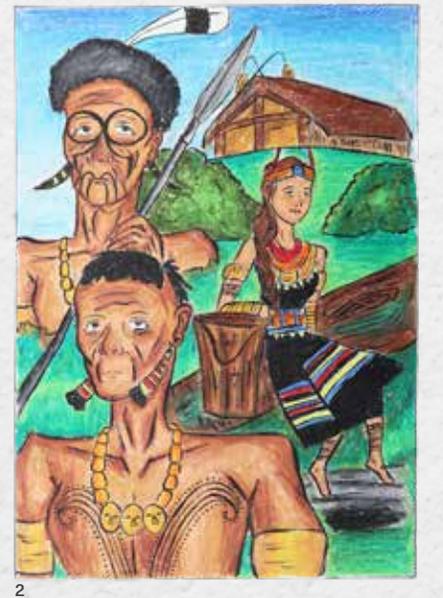
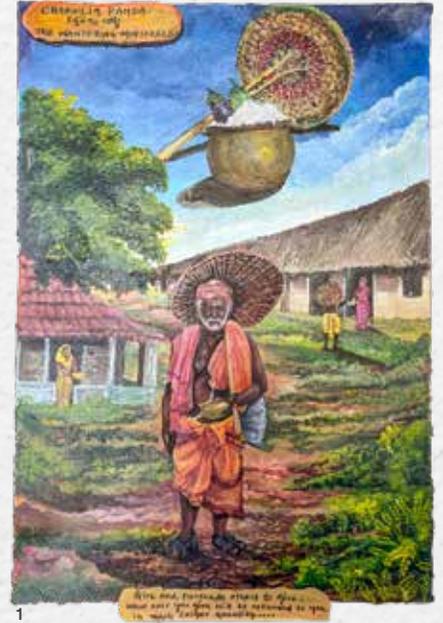


Bhagalpur

INTACH National Heritage Quiz 2025

Since 2014, the Heritage Education and Communication Service has organized the INTACH National Heritage Quiz, one of the largest quizzes on Indian heritage for students of classes 7-10. Covering India's built, natural, material, and living heritage, the multilingual quiz is conducted in regional languages and English and Hindi, ensuring widespread participation from schools across the country. It aspires to foster awareness, volunteerism, and activism among students while promoting regional languages as part of India's heritage.

This year around 130 INTACH chapters nation-wide will be participating. Some of the quizzes will be done in collaboration with Xpress Minds Edutainment Pvt. Ltd.





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Celebrating India – National Winners Entries

1 Shriyans Panda, VIII, Saraswati Public School, Bhubaneshwar
Chakulia Pandas, Vaishnavites of Odisha, are devotional bards who roam door-to-door reciting religious poems from ancient Odia literature. They are usually dressed in Saffron robes with sandalwood paste on their heads.

2 Shoiyan Y. Wumnok, IX, Little Star Hr. Sec. School, Dimapur
Konyak Tribe (Tattoos) The ancient practice of tattooing in the Konyak Tribe is seen as a mark of valour among men and women. Men tattoo their chests and faces and women folk tattoo their arms and legs to signify eligibility for marriage.

3 Shabdha Sriram, VIII, P. S. B. K. K. N. School, Chennai
Thaipusam is a Hindu festival celebrated by the Tamil community in India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, and Singapore. It falls on the full moon of the Tamil month of *Thai* and is dedicated to the Lord Murugan.

4 Seeratjot Kaur, VII, Spring Dale Senior School, Amritsar
Dilruba was invented by Guru Gobind Singh Ji. Its unique sound has captivated musicians and music lovers for centuries and it continues to be an important instrument in Indian classical music, Sufi devotional music, and Sikh sacred music.

5 Kardam Sonaiya, IX, Bhavan's A. K. Doshi Vidyalaya, Jamnagar
Ganesh Chaturthi is a festival that celebrates the birth of Lord Ganesha. We bring clay idols of Ganesha home, decorate them, and offer *modaks*. On the last day, we say goodbye to him with songs and prayers as the idol is immersed in water.

6 Kamal Kishore Chutia, IX, Maharishi Vidya Mandir III, Guwahati
Buffalo Fight locally known as MohJuj, Magh Bihu is incomplete without the Buffalo Fight. It was introduced by Ahom Sargadao Rudra Singha almost 200 years ago. In this, two buffaloes fight with their horns till one of them gives up.

7 Mahi Sahu, IX, Eklavya English School, Arjunda, Saraipali
Godna Art of Chattisgarh – This poster talks about the ancient Godna tattoo tradition. This is predominantly done by women on women. Godna is also believed to have medicinal effects on the body. However, this tradition is declining in modern times.

8 G. Kretheesh, VII, K. M. Bhavan's Vidya Mandir, Thrissur
Theyyam – The Dance of God – It is a ritual dance performed in several temples of Kerala. Theyyam consists of music and theatre performance. There are 400 types of Theyyams. The people of this region consider Theyyam as a channel to receive blessings from God.

9 Faith R. Chongthy, VIII, Tagore International School, Vasant Vihar, Delhi
Cheraw: Mizoram's Traditional Dance – It is one of the oldest dances of Mizoram. It was originally performed to bring peace to the soul of a departed mother leaving her child behind. Since then it has evolved into a highlight of the events and festivals.

10 Brahmansh Thapa, IX, Suncity School, Sector - 54, Gurugram
Garu Dan Thookkam – It is an intense ritual performed outside temples. It translates to 'Flaming Eagle'. It is celebrated as a tribute to Garuda, which is Lord Vishnu's vahana

11 Hruturaj S. Joshi, VIII, Indian Model School, Solapur
Pandharpur Wari – It is a popular pilgrimage in Maharashtra. This annual pilgrimage honours Lord Vithoba. This ritual instils a sense of community, bonding, and deep devotion.



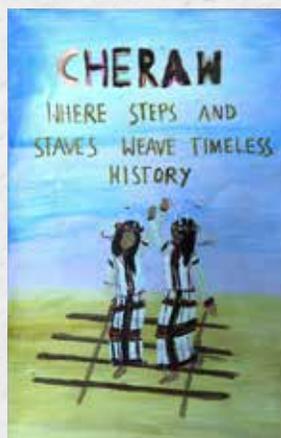
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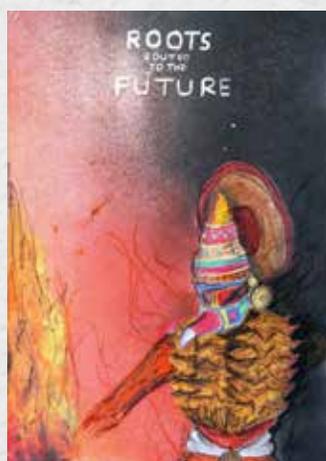
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National Winners' Educational Excursion and Felicitation Ceremony 9-11 JULY 2025

INTACH's Heritage Education and Communication Service (HECS) hosted the national winners of the *Celebrating India* poster-making and essay-writing competition in Delhi from 9-11 July 2025. Students from 11 cities took part in an educational trip celebrating heritage and creativity. Day 1 included an orientation by PD, HECS, a meeting with Member-Secretary Shri Ravindra Singh, a visit to INTACH's Conservation Lab and a heritage walk at Lodhi Gardens. Day 2 featured a tour of the Pradhan Mantri Sangrahalaya and the Sanskriti Museums, joined by Chairman Shri Ashok Singh Thakur. On Day 3, after visits to Sunder Nursery and Humayun's Tomb Interpretation Centre, the winners were felicitated at INTACH. Sohail Hashmi and Dr. Swapna Liddle were the Chief Guest and Guest of Honour respectively. The programme was also attended by the INTACH Chairman and Member Secretary.



Heritage walk at Lodi Gardens



Felicitation ceremony group photo – National winners pose with their trophies with dignitaries – (L to R) Purnima Datt (Principal Director, HECS), Sohail Hashmi (historian), Shri Ashok Singh Thakur (Chairman, INTACH), Shri Ravindra Singh (IAS retd., Member Secretary, INTACH), Dr. Swapna Liddle (author and historian)



Heritage walk at Sanskriti Museum of Every-day Art



Orientation Programme at INTACH



INTACH Chariman Shri Ashok Singh Thakur interacting with Celebrating India delegation at Sanskriti Kendra, Anandgram



Museum visit to Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya

INTACH HERITAGE ACADEMY

INTACH Heritage Academy is the first-of-its-kind in the country, running programs for training, research and capacity building in all aspects of heritage understanding, documentation, conservation and management. The academy aims to further research to develop a critical understanding of complexities and issues related to heritage.

Training and Capacity Building

Workshops on 'Understanding and Documenting Heritage' 9 AND 22 APRIL

Two half-day workshops on 'Understanding and Documenting Heritage' were conducted in April for students of the Pearl Academy and Delhi University. The workshops were designed to foster a comprehensive understanding of heritage, focusing on the importance of documentation and the diverse methods and approaches through which heritage, tangible, intangible, built and natural, can be meaningfully represented.

The workshop on 9 April was held at the Pearl Academy campus, New Delhi with participation of 35 undergraduate students from various design disciplines as well as faculty members. The workshop on 22 April was conducted in collaboration with HECS, with participation of 50 undergraduate students from various colleges of Delhi University such as Lady Sri Ram College, Hansraj College, Stephen's College and Aurobindo College along with their faculty members. The workshops concluded with engaging open discussions, where students shared observations and raised questions, reflecting on the topics covered in the half-day workshop.



(Left) Students explore heritage documentation methods, mapping interconnections and learn about the INTACH Heritage Awards 2025



Dr. Parul Munjal introduced students of Pearl Academy to the evolving concept of heritage beyond monuments, highlighting its cultural and natural dimensions



Purnima Dutt, Principal Director, HECS interacting with students of Delhi University



Certificates of participation awarded to the students by Shri. Ravindra Singh, Member Secretary, INTACH



Dr. Parul Munjal guides students to view heritage as a living, interconnected system of culture, nature and traditions





Chairman, Shri. Ashok Singh Thakur addressing the participating INTACH members

XVIth Capacity Building Workshop for INTACH Members 29 APRIL AND 1 MAY

The XVIth Capacity Building Workshop for INTACH members was held from 29 April to 1 May in collaboration with the Chapters Division, bringing together 54 participants from various chapters across India. Designed to enhance understanding, listing, documentation and conservation of heritage, the workshop provided a comprehensive platform for knowledge-sharing and skill-building. The workshop saw participation from 30 chapters of INTACH such as Sambalpur, Bhubaneswar, Murshidabad, Varanasi, Nagpur, Amravati, Nashik, Meghalaya, Mahoba and others.

INTACH Chairman Shri. Ashok Singh Thakur welcomed the participants through an inspiring address, followed by introduction of the participants. The workshop included presentations by the various divisions along with a walking tour of INTACH headquarters, a quiz conducted by HECS, practical training in heritage listing using Survey123 and hands-on field exercises at Lodhi Garden led by the AH and NH Divisions. Day 3 included an interactive heritage quiz and group discussions where participants identified regional heritage issues and proposed action plans. The workshop concluded with a feedback session moderated by MS and Chairman, INTACH and closing remarks by the Chairman.



Visit to the MH laboratory during the walking tour of INTACH



Session on conservation of architectural heritage by Ms. A Vijaya, PD, AHD



Presentation on conservation of art and material heritage by Ms. Merrin Anil, Centre Coordinator, A&MHD



Participants carrying out the NH listing in groups



Chairman, INTACH with the participants during the working session at Lodhi Garden Monuments conducted by AH Listing Cell



Certificate distribution on the final day of the Capacity Building Workshop

Workshops on Preventive Care of Heritage Objects in collaboration with Art and Material Heritage Division

14 JUNE AND 5 JULY

INTACH Heritage Academy and Art & Material Heritage Division of INTACH organised a series of workshops on 'Preventive Care of Heritage Objects' from June to August 2025. Scheduling the workshops on Saturdays enables participation from working professionals, students etc. who are engaged full time on weekdays. The workshops have been opened both in in-person and online modes, allowing for representation of participants from across various parts of the country, lending them access to the expertise of A&MH Division in the field of preventive care of heritage objects. The first two workshops were held on 14 June and 5 July, focusing on textiles and three-dimensional objects, respectively. The next two in the series are on preventive care of 'paintings' and 'paper, books and photographs', scheduled for 26 July and 9 August. The workshops have received an overwhelming response, highlighting the need for such courses for professionals as well as heritage enthusiasts.

Preventive Care of Textiles: The workshop on textiles covered various methods to store, display and care for textiles. The workshop started with a lecture elaborating on the properties of different kinds of fibres and weaves; the kind of deterioration that happens in textiles and ways to prevent them. The second half of the workshop included hands-on demonstrations of how to best handle textiles and appropriate ways to store them and the materials best suited to protect them. The course had participants from across the country ranging from professionals from government organisations, museums and art galleries to collectors, students and young professionals. A total of 47 individuals attended the workshop in online and physical mode.

Preventive Care of Three-dimensional Objects: The workshop on 3D objects focused on the preventive care, handling and storage of heritage objects made of materials such as stone, metals and wood. The session began with an introductory lecture that outlined common types of deterioration observed in three-dimensional objects and discussed the environmental and material-specific factors that contribute to their decay. The presentation also highlighted key approaches in preventive conservation. The second half of the workshop involved a live demonstration and hands-on practical session, where participants learned how to examine objects for signs of damage, and how to safely handle and store them using suitable materials and supports. The demonstrations were led by experienced conservators from the INTACH Conservation Institute, Delhi, and allowed participants to directly engage with tools and techniques relevant to the care of sculptural and utilitarian heritage objects. Participants included a diverse group of professionals and students from across the country, such as staff from museums, academic institutions, government departments, private collectors and conservation practitioners. A total of 33 individuals attended the workshop, both in-person and online.



Ms. Vezotolu Vadeo, Textile conservator of A&MH Division during the lecture



Ms. Merrin Anil and Ms. Vezotolu Vadeo of A&MH Division conducting the hands-on session



Subrata Sen, (left) and Mohd Galib (right), Senior Coordinators, INTACH Conservation Institute, conducting the hands-on practical demonstrations for the participants during the workshop





Research and Publications

INTACH Research Programme 2023-24

The draft reports have been submitted by the awardees and are to be sent for peer review. The topics covered by the research scholars are:

S.No.	Name of the scholar/s	Topic
1.	Camellia Biswas and Ahana Ghosh	Looking through the Culinary scapes: Exploring the traditional food practices and food memories of Dholavira and Janan village, Rann of Kachchh, Gujarat
2.	Maitri Dore	Conservation through Storytelling: A Case for the Mumbai Metro Line III
3.	Brinda Shah and Manalee Nanavati	Dwelling as a Manifestation of Cultural living patterns: A study of symbiotic relationship between people – cattle and place in Bharvad community of Saurashtra, Gujarat
4.	Swathy VS and Ritu Sara Thomas	Typological Variations of Mandapas in Temple Architecture of Kerala: A District-wise Database with Analysis Emphasising Historic, Architectural, and Ritualistic Significance
5.	Srijani Bhattacharjee	Sacred Environmental Abodes: The Spatiality of Nature Conservation Among The Khasi Community of Meghalaya
6.	Sonali Mestry	Wooden Boat Building (Theme – Traditional Materials and Techniques)
7.	Deepika Ghosh Saxena	Indo-Afghan Heritage of North India – A case of Rohilkhand- home to Rohilla Pathans
8.	Harish Benjwal	Hypothecating the Perfumery Cottage Industry of Kannauj for a viable and suitable livelihood alternative to expansion in the Himalayan Region

INTACH Research Programme 2025

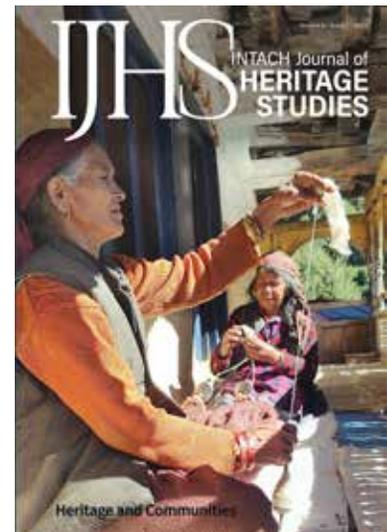
The meeting of the Selection Committee was convened on 01 February 2025. As per the decision of the committee, five research proposals have been extended support to conduct research. Accordingly, the first instalment of their grant has been released. The names of the awardees and research topics are as follows:

S.No.	Name of the scholar/s	Topic
1.	Kantikumar Pawar	Rock Art Tradition Amongst Native Gond Communities in Central India: An Ethno-Archaeological perspective
2.	Trivikram TN and Saparya Varma	The Educational Power of Historic Sites: Evaluating current practices and proposing best practices through a pilot study
3.	Richa Bansal	Heritage and Identity of Microcultures: The legacy of Chitragupta worship and small family temples
4.	Athulya Ann Aby	Tourism as a Tool for Socio-Cultural Sustainability: An impact study of responsible tourism in Goa
5.	Ruchika Rai	The Economic Ecosystem of Cultural Heritage: A study of the Kumaoni Ramlila's preparation and presentation

INTACH Journal of Heritage Studies

Volume 6, Issue 1, 2025: Based on the theme 'Heritage and Communities', the issue examines the interconnectedness of heritage and communities through diverse case studies and explores how these connections manifest in diverse local settings, while situating the discourse in a broader global framework. It was released on 18 April through the website and social media platforms of INTACH. Along with papers emerging from research work undertaken by scholars under the INTACH Research Scholarship 2022, the issue features the documentation entry titled Banavasi: Revisiting Historic Housing Typologies in a Sacred Landscape submitted by Wadiyar Centre for Architecture, Mysuru, Karnataka that won the Award of Excellence of INTACH Awards for Interdisciplinary Heritage Documentation 2024. A review of INTACH publications on the theme of heritage and communities has been included in the issue, besides two individual book reviews.

Volume 6, Issue 2: A call for papers was announced on the theme Conserving Significant Places in India, as a response to which, 125 abstracts were received and 48 were short-listed for presentation during a two-day symposium conducted on 6-7 December 2024. Post the symposium, shortlisted papers are in the process of peer-review and will form a part of the next issue of IJHS based on the review and selection process.



Academic Development Projects

Integrating Documentation Archives into Secondary Listing Database of Listing Cell

This initiative is aimed at integrating the documentation work carried out by undergraduate students and submitted to IHA as a part of the Awards Programme with the secondary database of the Listing Cell, Architectural Heritage Division. The total number of submissions received from various colleges from 2015 to 2024 is 258. This entire documentation has been made accessible through the 'Documentation Archives' section of the IHA website and includes a wide variety of heritage categories such as residential buildings, temples, public structures and community spaces.

Data from these entries is being systematically added into a template of the secondary database developed by the Listing Cell of INTACH that captures key details such as site name, location, typology, significance, ownership and current condition. Over 340 entries have been derived from the 258 entries and uploaded to the secondary database by the IHA team, along with georeferencing.



Sarva Lok: A transnational nature-culture programme addressing climate change concerns

Sarvalok that translates to “all worlds” or a “world for all” is proposed as a project by INTACH to bring focus on biocultural expressions/ ecosystems that represent nature-culture connections across Asia. The first in the series is envisioned as ‘Gajalok: The Elephant Lands and their Cultural Symbolism in Asia’. Through the project, the objectives are to bring together countries with common connections and concerns with respect to nature-culture associations, create unified stories around the theme, form an international alliance and pitch for joint (transnational) UNESCO inscriptions. Ms. K. Nandini Singhla, Director General and Mr. Sanjay Vedi, Director, Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Ministry of External Affairs visited INTACH and gave their inputs on taking the project forward.

Ms. K Nandini Singla, Director General and Mr. Sanjay Vedi, Director, Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) with Mr. Ravindra Singh, Member Secretary, INTACH and INTACH team

Revisiting the INTACH Charter

IHA is working on a new draft of the INTACH Charter with Dr. Shikha Jain as Advisor. The ‘INTACH Charter for the Conservation of Unprotected Architectural Heritage and Sites in India’ was adopted in November 2004. Feedback from earlier consultations as well as input from the HoDs of NH, ICH and AH divisions is being incorporated in the draft, taking into view the charters and guidelines that have emerged since 2004, when the original Charter was adopted. The draft will be shared with the Academic Council of IHA for their input and then opened for wider consultations.



Events/Outreach Programmes

Panel Discussion

KIRORI MAL COLLEGE, DELHI UNIVERSITY | 21 APRIL

Director, IHA was part of a panel discussion organised by Bhoomi – The Eco Club of Kirori Mal College, during their two-day annual festival, La Natureza 2025 on 21 April. The discussion was on the topic Ethics of Environmental Action: Who Decides What's Sustainable? focussing on the implications of environmental decision making and exploring who truly defines sustainability in the modern world. The session included talks by Dr. Munjal and co-panelist Dr. Livleen K Kahlon from TERI, followed by an interactive session with the students, delving into discussions around dilemmas faced by them with respect to challenges and opportunities for sustainable action.



During the panel discussion

Roundtable discussion

CSEP RESEARCH FOUNDATION | 28 APRIL

The Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP) Research Foundation organised a roundtable discussion on India's Heritage Diplomacy: The case of Archaeology and Conservation at the CSEP campus on 28 April as part of their 'Tiffin Talk' series. Director, IHA was invited to the event to share her experience and respond to the research presentations made by Mr. Aleksandr Kuzmenchuk, Fulbright-Nehru Student Researcher at Ashoka University and Dr. Constantino Xavier, Senior Fellow, CSEP, as one of the three discussants. The speakers were appreciative of the perspective brought out by Dr. Munjal about the role of non-government organisations in the international discourse around heritage conservation, as she shared the experiences of IHA's work with global partners.



Group photograph with the students



(Left & Right) During the roundtable discussion

Panel Discussion

PEARL ACADEMY | 9 MAY

Pearl Academy, Delhi, an institutional member of INTACH, had organised Portfolio '25, the graduation show of their final year student during which they conducted a panel discussion, 'Start-up or Step-In? Navigating the First Step After Design School' for their final year design students on 9 May. Dr. Parul Munjal, Director, IHA was invited as a panellist for the session, during which she shared perspectives from the field of heritage and culture, and how these are relevant for the discipline of design.

Discussions on Potential Collaborations

Meetings and discussions were held with Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun; DHAN Foundation, Madurai; Indian History Awareness and Research (IHAR), Houston, Texas, USA and Network of Indian Cultural Enterprises (NICE) to discuss potential collaborations in the future with respect to training and capacity building programmes. The connect with WII was facilitated by Ms. Anjali Bharthari Ravi, Co-Convenor, INTACH Uttarakhand, through Dr. R Suresh Kumar, Nodal Officer, WII-Category 2 Centre (C2C), resulting in an online meeting on the 23 April in which both organisations exchanged possible avenues of working together.

▼ CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The **Fifteenth Pupul Jayakar Memorial Lecture – Lords of Earth and Sea: A History of the Chola Empire** was organized on 17 April, 2025 at Alliance Francaise, 72, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi. The lecture was streamed live on YouTube. The link is <https://youtube.com/live/cY8Ft2o9SMA>

The Chola Empire (850–1279 CE) was one of the most remarkable polities in medieval Asia, as creative and imaginative as they were expansive and warlike. They built stupendous temples – the tallest freestanding structures on earth after the pyramids of Egypt. Chola queens popularized new forms of gods and worship, such as the iconic Nataraja and the singing of Tamil poems to deities: both integral to Hinduism today. And they were spectacularly daring, raiding not just the powerful Deccan and North India but also Southeast Asia and Sri Lanka. All of these had lasting impacts on not just on South India but on the world.

In this conceptualized lecture, award-winning historian Anirudh Kanisetti brought to life the world of the Cholas. Not just the world of kings and queens attended by retinues of generals and attendants – but the stories of the ‘little people’, whose lives were buffeted by big events. Based on thousands of inscriptions and hundreds of secondary sources, *Lords of Earth and Sea* is not just a procession of dazzling kings and queens but transports us from palaces to peasant settlements of over a thousand years ago.



Audience listening keenly to the lecture



Question/Answer session after the lecture

Anirudh Kanisetti is a public historian specialising in ancient and early medieval India. He is the author of *Lords of Earth and Sea: A History of the Chola Empire*, and *Lords of the Deccan: Southern India from the Chalukyas to the Cholas*. He hosts two podcasts: *Echoes of India* and *YUDDHA: The Indian Military History podcast*. Anirudh has won the Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar, the Ramnath Goenka Sahitya Samman, and Tata Literature Live's Non-Fiction Book of the Year Award. He was an *Open Mind* of 2022, and on the *New Indian Express*' 40 Under 40. Anirudh was formerly Editor at the MAP Academy, where he worked on the Encyclopaedia of Indian Art. Prior to this, he was Associate Fellow at the Takshashila Institution. His work has received grants from Princeton University, the India Foundation for the Arts, and MAP Academy.



The presentation in progress

A token of appreciation to the guest speaker from the Member Secretary – Shri Ravindra Singh



A series of lectures on **Maritime Heritage of India** was organized from 13 May to 16 May at the INTACH Multipurpose Hall. India's Maritime History can be traced back to the ancient times. The evidence from archaeological finds at Lothal, marine archaeology and several other sources indicate that India enjoyed a robust seafaring history and unique boat building traditions.

The curated lecture series unfolded fascinating and diverse aspects of India's seafaring history by some of the best domain experts in the field.

(Left) Director, CA, introducing the first guest speaker of the series

13 MAY 2025 (Tuesday)

**The Stitched Ship Project:
Recreating India's Ancient Shipbuilding Tradition**

by **Shri Sanjeev Sanyal**

Economist, Author, Member of the PM's Economic Advisory Council

link: <https://youtu.be/id5xkltoWh4>



14 MAY 2025 (Wednesday)

The Boat Building Traditions of India with focus on Eastern India

by **Dr Swarup Bhattacharyya**

Anthropologist, Curator at the National Maritime Museum, Lothal; specialized in Bengal boat culture with global research experience; contributions to major heritage museums and galleries.

link: <https://youtu.be/Z6GruSWaKs4>



15 MAY 2025 (Thursday)

Revelations from Marine Archaeology

by **Dr Rajiv Nigam**

Recognized globally for leadership in marine archaeology, geological oceanography, and contributions to paleoclimate, micropaleontology, and climate change

link: <https://youtu.be/iggQbmEksNE>



16 MAY 2025 (Friday)

Indian Maritime History and the Development of National Maritime Museum at Lothal

by **Prof. (Dr) Vasant Shinde**

Former Vice-Chancellor of Deccan College, Former Founding Director General of the National Maritime Heritage Complex, Lothal

link: <https://youtu.be/eJ5p8fi-xT4>



On the eve of International Day of Yoga, a lec-dem was organized on **Five Yogic Tools for Overall Wellbeing** on 20 June, 2025 at the Multipurpose Hall. The link is: <https://youtube.com/live/XOy-aujFrdc?feature=share>

The five components of Yoga were introduced in small 15-minute capsule forms. The programme was meant for people who are unable to find time to do Yoga in the morning. It would help them to use brief yogic tools which they can spread throughout the day and enjoy all the benefits of a yogic lifestyle. These components have been formulated by *Swami Niranjanananda Saraswati* for the overall health and wellbeing of the people in modern times. The five components are as follows:

- Postures For body alignment, flexibility and physical health
- Breathing Practice For detoxification and vital energy
- Yogic relaxation (Yoga Nidra) For relaxing brain centres
- Mantras For wellbeing and will power
- Meditation For creativity and intuitive wisdom



Sanya Tyagi (left), Prof. (Dr) Alka Tyagi (right) at the lec-dem 'Yogic Tool' and Meditation

FACILITATORS

Sanya Tyagi is an Indian Classical dancer and artist from New Delhi, now based in Jaipur, Rajasthan. A Yoga practitioner, she trained at the Bihar School of Yoga, Munger, and has taught yoga for more than a decade. She is also a poet, grounded in traditions with the ability to articulate abstract and complex ideas. Through dance, service, yoga and poetry, she creates authentic, aesthetic experiences that become her life.

Prof. (Dr) Alka Tyagi is a bilingual poet, researcher and translator, who teaches English at Delhi University. She completed a second Masters in Sanskrit from Delhi University to deepen her understanding of the Sanskrit texts that she studied for her chosen research areas. Her research areas include Ancient Indian literatures, Yogic studies, Upanishads, and the non-dual Kashmiri Trika Śaivism.

Prof. Tyagi has authored five books and has published poetry collections – *Sun ri Sakhi*, *Amaltaas*, and *Whispers at the Ganga Ghat*. Her most recent book, is *Reconstructing Devotion through Narada Bhakti Sutras*. Former Fellow at IIAS, Shimla, she completed her monograph on Bhavana and Bhairava: Creative Contemplation and Supreme Reality in Kashmiri Trika Shaivism, which is under publication. Dr. Tyagi has been an ardent practitioner and exponent of Yoga and meditation for over forty years.



Participants at the International Day of Yoga



The following publications are in progress:

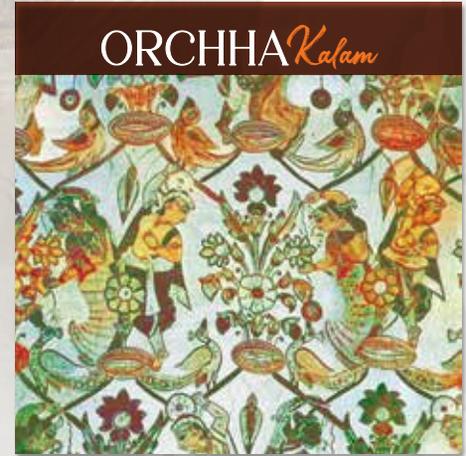
- The Fifteenth Pupul Jayakar Memorial Lecture
- INTACH Lecture Series
- Annual Report 2024-25



PUBLICATIONS



Orchha Kalam – The book entitled *Orchha Kalam* is a testament to INTACH's ongoing efforts to highlight and protect invaluable heritage. 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 book is in the final stages of design. This publication will inspire greater appreciation, research, and care for India's painted legacies, and reaffirms our collective responsibility to conserve them.



The **INTACH brochure 2025** is being produced encompassing the activities of each division and also Chairman's contributions locally, with Chapters, and at the INTACH HQ, with divisions.

INTACH Publications were sent to the National Library of India for their libraries in Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai and Delhi as follows:

- INTACH Journal of Heritage Studies – Heritage and Communities (Volume 6 Issue 1) 2025 – 4 copies for 4 National Libraries
- Wall Painting Sites of Himachal Pradesh – 1 copy only for the Kolkata Library

The Division has submitted two sample copies of the following INTACH Publications for selection process to the Central Book Selection Committee of the Raja Ram Mohan Rai Library Foundation, Kolkata.

- Conserving the Spirit of a Historic Garden
- Buddhist Searches in Jharkhand

The Division has generated digital ISBN for INTACH publications from April – July 2025 for the following books:



OUR GOALS FOR HERITAGE |

- Sensitize the public about the plurisentric cultural legacy of India.
- Instill a sense of social responsibility towards preserving our common heritage.
- Protect and conserve our living, built & natural heritage by understanding necessary actions and measures.
- Document unprotected buildings of archaeological, architectural, historical and aesthetic significance and cultural resources, as this is the first step towards formulating conservation plans.
- Develop heritage policy and regulation, and make legal interventions to protect our heritage when necessary.
- Provide expertise in the field of conservation, restoration and preservation of specific works of art, and encourage capacity building by developing skills through training programmes.
- Undertake emergency response measures during natural or man-made disasters, and support local administration whenever heritage is threatened.
- Foster collaboration, Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) and partnerships with government and other national and international agencies, and
- Generate sponsorship for conservation and educational projects.

S. No.	Title of the book	ISBN	Author/Editor	Publication month
1.	Wall Paintings Sites of Rajasthan, Jaipur District	978-81-978206-9-4	Dr Padma Rohilla	May 2025
2.	Sambhar Lake – An Important Wetland and Natural Heritage (Volume 1)	978-81-987776-1-4	Manu Bhatnagar	May 2025
3.	Reviving Hindon River – A Basin Approach	978-81-987776-8-3	Manu Bhatnagar	May 2025
4.	Adopt a Tree	978-81-987776-6-9	Purnima Datt	June 2025
5.	Adopt a Craft	978-81-987776-3-8	Purnima Datt	June 2025
6.	Adopt a Monument	978-81-987776-5-2	Dr Shobita Punja	June 2025
7.	Adopt a Performing Art	978-81-987776-4-5	Purnima Datt	July 2025
8.	Orchha Kalam	978-81-987776-0-7	Dr. Vishwapati Trivedi IAS (Retd.) Mrs. Mona Trivedi	July 2025

HERITAGE TOURISM

Heritage Walks

Raipur Heritage Walks

Five heritage walks for students in Raipur city and its surroundings are being organized by the Raipur Chapter Convenor. The routes are as follows:

- Route 1: Heritage Temples – Old Nagwanshi Temple (Kankalipara, Raipur)
- Route 2: Heritage Monuments nearby the city – Madarbara, Old Gurudwara, Old Churches etc.
- Route 3: Heritage/Historic Women Market – Turi Hatri, Purani Basti, Raipur
- Route 4: Old Museum of Chhattisgarh – Kalavithika, Gurughasidas Museum and Cultural Heritage – Food of Chhattisgarh at Gad Kalewa
- Route 5: Historical Ponds of Raipur – Budhatalab, Kankali Talab, Maharajbandh Talab etc.

The initiative of conducting the walks by the Chapter will promote heritage of the city, which is a destination for domestic tourists.

Sawai Madhopur Heritage Walk: One-day programme for students

The Sawai Madhopur Chapter is organizing a one-day heritage walk in July/August for 200 participants comprising 20 students from the 10 schools of the city. The route of the heritage walk has been planned from the listed built heritage of Sawai Madhopur by the Chapter. The places are heritage buildings with historic and structural importance. The one-day walk (for 5 hours) is being conducted in which senior students will participate and familiarize themselves with local heritage.

Research and Publications

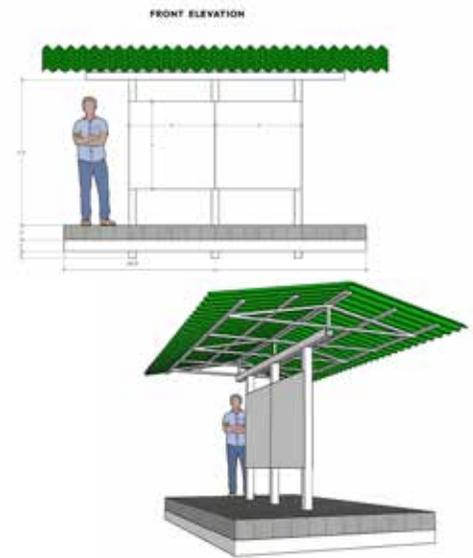
Gangaikondacholapuram-Darasuram – A Guide to Built Heritage

The Tamil Nadu Chapter Convenor, Dr Suresh, has initiated research for production of this guide. Both the sites belong to the Chola dynasty's (a period of mid-11th & 12th centuries) historical places and temples including the UNESCO World Heritage Darasuram Airavatesvara Temple and the archaeological ruins. These two sites are not as easily accessible as other eminent temples at Tanjavur and Mahabalipuram.

Research and Publication on 'Heritage of Jabalpur'

A detailed study on the heritage (built and natural) of Jabalpur district and the significance of the heritage places/sites is being published by the Jabalpur Convenor in which the origin of the name 'Jabalpur' and its history topics will be covered. He will visit the following places to complete the research for the book.

- Raja Shankar Shah Museum conserved by INTACH
- 200 years old Heritage Lal Bangala
- Beohar House
- Pandav caves, Pachmarhi, Madhya Pradesh
- More than 100 buildings of Defence area of British Period



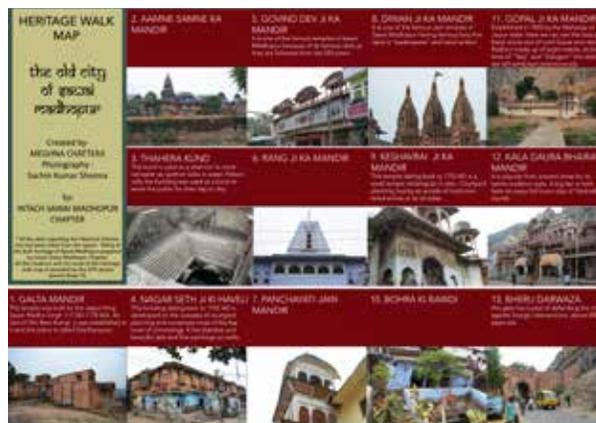
Setting up Longkhum Heritage Signage/ Information Board

The proposal from the Nagaland Chapter for a signage board at Longkhum village in Mokokchung district of Nagaland has been processed. The village is a popular destination in the tourism itinerary. Due to lack of printed materials such as leaflets/ brochures and signage, visitors miss out the rich repository of natural heritage, 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. The village is situated on a high precipice called 'Mongzu Ki'. Several natural heritage sites dot the Longkhum bio-space.

The signage board will provide essential information for visitors to experience and also promote awareness and conservation of the village's natural heritage.



Maharajbandh Talab, Raipur



Gangaikonda Cholapuram Temple

SPECIAL FROM

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.

The 32nd Meeting of the Governing Council of INTACH was held on 15 April 2025 at the INTACH Head Office, New Delhi. The Member Secretary extended a warm welcome to the newly elected Chairman, Shri Ashok Singh Thakur. He also extended a warm welcome to all the Governing Council Members including Padma Vibhushan Shri S.K. Misra, Ex Vice Chairman Ms. Asha Vasant Sheth and newly elected members, namely Padma Shree Shri K.K. Muhammed, Shri Rajeev Tomar, Dr. S.S. Wani and Shri Bhairab Lal Das.

The Chairman released the books titled 'History of Bhopal State – Glimpses of Changing Times', a book on '*Raisen Jile ke Chitrit Shelashrey*' and '*Bhopal Jile ke Chitrit Shelashrey*', written and published by Shri M.M. Upadhyay, G.C. member.

The 61st Meeting of the Executive Committee of INTACH was held on 20 June, 2025 at INTACH Office, New Delhi.

The Fourteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee for implementation of Special Corpus Fund Projects was held on 23 July 2025 at INTACH Head office, New Delhi. The Chairman extended a warm welcome to the members of the Committee and expressed his pleasure that Hon'ble Minister of Culture and Tourism had visited INTACH office in the forenoon and released the INTACH film "Kan-Kan Mein Ram" on 23 July 2025.

All the above meetings concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

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

The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) organised a special screening for the release of its documentary film "*Kan-Kan Mein Ram*" on 23 July 2025 at INTACH Multipurpose Hall, New Delhi. The event was graced by the presence of Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Hon'ble Minister of Culture and Tourism, Government of India, along with senior officials, scholars, and invited guests. The Hon'ble Minister was warmly welcomed by Shri Ashok Singh Thakur, Chairman, INTACH, and Shri Ravindra Singh, IAS (Retd.), Member Secretary, INTACH and other officials of INTACH.



Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Hon'ble Minister of Culture and Tourism, Government of India, addressing the audience

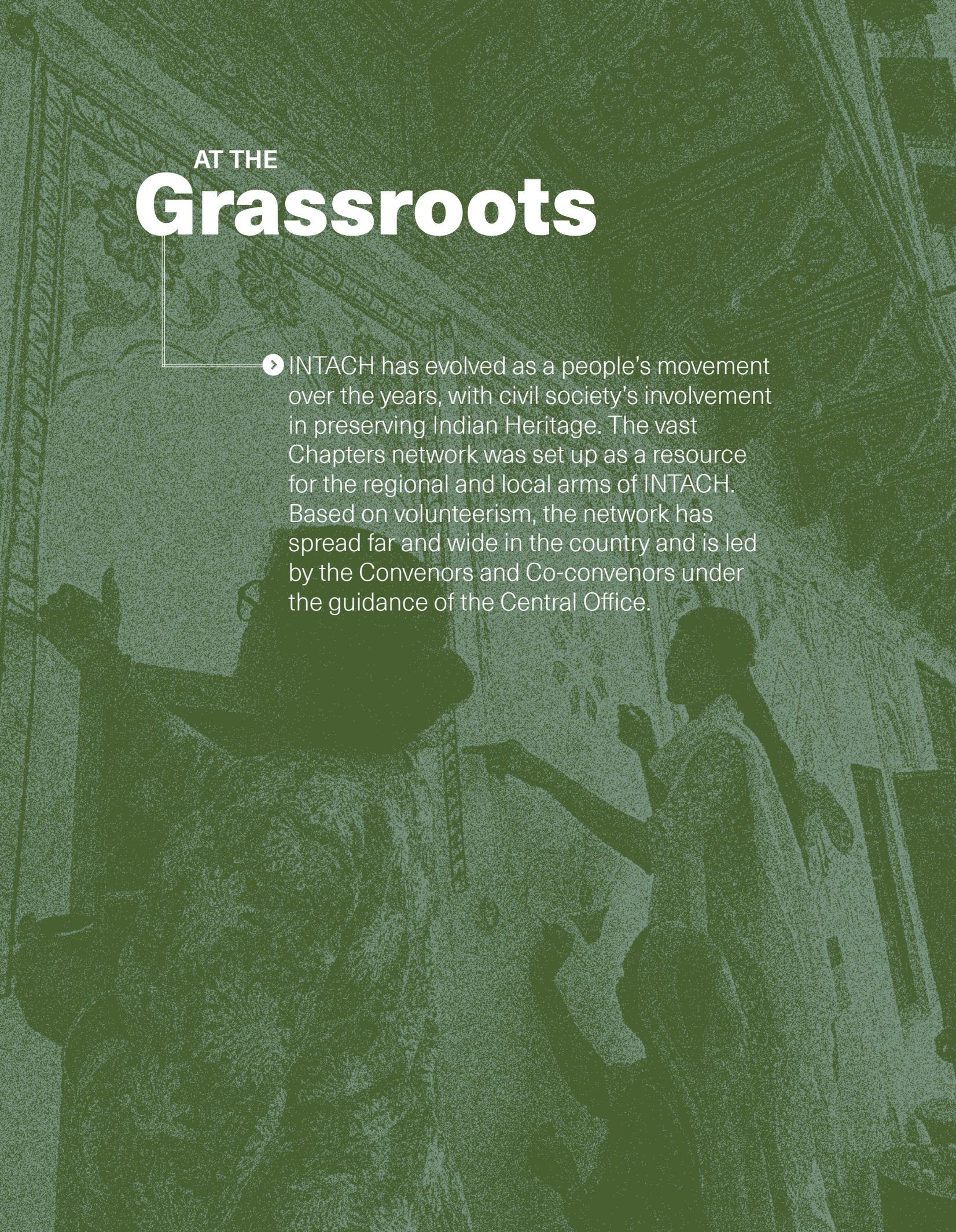
The Hon'ble Minister appreciated the efforts of the INTACH team and the filmmakers in presenting the story of the Ramayana as a historical and cultural narrative, and a living tradition that binds the entire country with its universal message.



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



Shri Ashok Singh Thakur, Chairman INTACH presenting a memento to Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Hon'ble Minister of Culture and Tourism, Government of India



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.

▼ INTACH CHAPTERS

Andaman & Nicobar

On 23 May, the Chapter, in collaboration with SANE and with strong support from ANET, celebrated World Turtle Day at the Wandoor Marine Interpretation Centre. Around 35 children from Wandoor villages attended. Shri Mohammad Hussain, Range Officer, Forest Department, spoke on marine flagship species, while Shri Arun Singh, Wildlife Expert and Ornithologist, highlighted the importance of crocodiles as an 'umbrella species' crucial to mangrove ecosystems. An Environmental Educator, addressed the threat of plastic pollution. The event was coordinated by Ms. Mariam, Program Officer, ANET, and organized by Ms. Samhita Veda Acharya, Convenor of the Chapter, and Secretary, SANE.



World Heritage Day celebrations – Anantapur Chapter

love and another on industrialist Ratan Tata. All participants took the *Swachh Bharat* pledge led by the Chief Guest, who was also felicitated during the event.

Andhra Pradesh

▼ ANANTAPUR

World Heritage Day 2025 was celebrated at Rotary English Medium School, Anantapur, in association with the school's Heritage Club. Dr. V. Rajita, Assistant Director, Department of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Andhra Pradesh, was the Chief Guest. The Chapter organized a monuments poster exhibition, while V. L. Sreevalli, Special Officer, hosted a coin exhibition. Heritage Club students performed two skits—one on a mother's

Celebration of World Turtle Day at the Wandoor Marine Interpretation Centre – Andaman & Nicobar Chapter



▼ GUNTUR

A four-day photo exhibition on the migratory birds of Kolleru Lake, jointly organized by AP Creative and Cultural Commission, Kala Peetham, and INTACH, was held at Hindu College of Engineering. The exhibition, featuring works by internationally acclaimed filmmaker and photographer Vajranabh Nataraj Maharshi, drew hundreds of students and locals. Convenor S.V.S. Lakshminarayana praised Maharshi's artistic efforts in promoting awareness of nature, heritage, and culture. Kala Peetham Secretary and noted artist S. Vijay Kumar

introduced his upcoming series *Mystic-Mountainscapes*, inspired by his love for mountains. Maharshi shared how a near-fatal accident led him to photography, driven by his deep connection with birds. He stressed the importance of protecting all life forms for humanity's survival. AP Creative and Cultural Commission Chairperson and CEO lauded the initiative for fostering environmental and cultural awareness.

The Chapter, in collaboration with Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, organized a chess tournament for students under 15 on 9 June, at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan. The event drew 150 participants from various schools. The Chapter Convenor, highlighted the aim of promoting strategic thinking, problem-solving, and sportsmanship among students. Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's Secretary and INTACH members actively supported the event. The tournament was well-received, encouraging young talent, teamwork, and healthy competition.

Kalapeetam and the Chapter organized a two-day art exhibition on 3-4 July, at Hindu College of Management, and the event featured paintings by 18 artists portraying key moments from Alluri's life. INTACH members, Kalapeetam Secretary, and hundreds of students participated.



Chess Tournament Program – Guntur Chapter



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



✓ NANDYAL

The general body meeting of INTACH Nandyal Chapter was held on 25 May at Yoga Consciousness Trust, Nandyal. A presentation covered the Chapter's achievements and future plans. K. Chinnapa Reddy, INTACH Governing Council member and Chief Guest, addressed members and honoured the family of Prudhvi Subbarao for their long-standing involvement in Srisailam's Pagalankarana. Elections resulted in Sri M.V. Sivakumar Reddy continuing as Convenor, Sri K. Sethuraman as Additional Co-convenor, and Sri Katakam Raghuv eer elected as Co-convenor, replacing Leelavathi who had resigned. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by Sri Annem Srinivasa Reddy, life member of the Chapter.

✓ VISAKHAPATNAM

On 5 June, to mark World Environment Day, the Chapter organized an interactive Zoom session on *Plastic Pollution* with Dr. K. Kameswara Rao, former Professor and HoD of Environmental Science, along with Chapter members. A heritage report detailing a historic tank in Bheemuni-patnam, under GVMC, was prepared and submitted by Mr. P. Venkatarama Reddy, Life Member, INTACH Vizag.

On 15 July, the Chapter members attended the District Tourism Council meeting chaired by Collector, Sri M. N. Haridhira Prasad. Key proposals included a UNESCO Geo Park, restoration of Queen Mary's Girls High School, and a 1780 Sepoy Mutiny memorial. The Collector assured



Meeting on Geoheritage with Collector – Visakhapatnam Chapter

support and agreed to escalate the Geo Park proposal. A Senior Member, requested guidelines for government school participation in INTACH programs and the revival of Silparamam. A DPR was approved.

The Chapter received two Best Chapter Awards for organizing the *INTACH Heritage Quiz 2024* and the '*Celebrating India*' national poster-making competition.

Assam and Kamrup

On 8 April, the Kamrup and Assam State Chapters held a '*Celebrating India*' poster competition at Royal Global University Guwahati, under INTACH's HECS. Sixty-three students from various schools participated. Assam State Convenor Prof. Shiela Bora welcomed them, and Kamrup Chapter Convenor, Dr. Manjil Hazarika



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



explained the rules. Vice Chancellor Prof. Y.S.R. Murthy encouraged the participants. Students showcased Assam's and India's intangible cultural heritage through posters with slogans and brief write-ups.

Bihar

✓ PATNA

Vijayotsav Diwas was celebrated on 23 April at Babu Veer Kunwar Singh Smriti Sangrahalaya, Jagdishpur, with Dr. Shiv Kumar Mishra, Life Member, INTACH. District officials, public representatives, and students participated in competitions and explored exhibits featuring Singh's land records, citations, historic photographs, and Tibetan manuscripts. Schools received related souvenirs.

The Chapter organized a week-long workshop on Patna Kalam painting from 12 to 19 May, at the College of Arts and Crafts, Patna. Over 20 artists participated in the training. The workshop was inaugurated by Prof. N.K. Agarwal, Director of Higher Education, who emphasized the importance of reviving Patna Kalam and integrating it into art education. Various Experts spoke on the style's relevance and revival. Convenor, Bhairav Lal Das, stressed collective efforts to preserve the tradition. The workshop featured sessions by artists Ankur Kumar and Rupesh Kumar and concluded with an exhibition and certificate distribution.

During International Museum Week in Jagdishpur, Ara, the Babu Veer Kunwar Singh Memorial Museum organized quiz, drawing, and essay competitions focused on the life and legacy of Babu Veer Kunwar Singh. Supported by the Chapter and Your Heritage, the event aimed to engage children with their cultural heritage. Over 100 students from various schools took part. Historian Bhairav Lal Das highlighted the significance of International Museum Day, while Museum In-charge, stressed the importance of connecting youth with history. Winners received certificates, books, and mementoes, with all participants honored for their involvement.



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

On 24 May during the celebrations of International Museum Week, hundreds of students took part in quizzes, drawing, and essay contests on Babu Veer Kunwar Singh. Supported by INTACH Patna and Your Heritage, Patna, the event emphasized heritage awareness. Winners received books, certificates, and souvenirs, with strong participation from teachers and students.

Sitaram Upadhyay Museum, Buxar, in collaboration with Dr. Shiv Kumar Mishra, Life Member, INTACH, observed International Museum Day with a photo exhibition, short film launch, and seminar. Dr. Umesh Chandra Dwivedi, former Director of Museums, Bihar, and Co-Convenor of the Chapter, inaugurated the event and released a 14-minute film on the museum's collections, highlighting the importance of heritage awareness. Dr. Jalaj Kumar Tiwari, Senior Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India, Bhopal, commended the film's portrayal of key artefacts. Guests were felicitated with Mithila-inspired robes and mementos modeled on the Nalanda University seal.

On 8 June, the Chausagarh Clay Sculpture Gallery was inaugurated at Sitaram Upadhyay Museum, Buxar, with a seminar held in collaboration with Dr. Shiv Kumar Mishra, Life Member, INTACH. Former Rajya Sabha MP Shri Nagendra Nath Ojha, Smt. Kamrun Nisha, and Dumraon Maharaj Shri Manvijay Singh led the inauguration. Dr. Ojha highlighted the gallery's contribution to Indian art history. Dr. Mishra outlined discoveries from 2011–2014 excavations by Dr. Umesh Chandra Dwivedi, including Ramayana-themed terracotta sculptures

and Jain bronzes now in Bihar Museum. Scholars and researchers from across the region also addressed the seminar.

Chhattisgarh

State Convenor Shri Arvind Mishra was interviewed on Doordarshan Kendra, Chhattisgarh, discussing the state's cultural heritage. He highlighted key tangible and intangible assets, urging inclusion of sites like Sirpur, Kanger Valley, Kutumsar Caves, Manendragarh Fossil Park, and Ramgarh's ancient Natyashala on the World Heritage list. He also emphasized the urgent need to preserve and promote rural heritage.

✓ DURG-BHILAI

The Chapter held a meeting to discuss preserving martyr Sukhdev Raj's legacy. Injured during the freedom struggle, Sukhdev Raj spent over a decade in Durg and died in 1972. Memorials in Anda village and Durg are under threat from development projects. The meeting resolved to actively protect his heritage and outlined a preservation plan. Attendees included INTACH State Convenor Arvind Mishra, Raipur Convenor Dr. Rakesh Kumar Tiwari, and other members.

The Chapter held a discussion on cultural property conservation with Dr. Sanjay Kumar Gupta as keynote speaker and Ms. Sushma Lakra, District Lok Adalat President, as Chief Guest. Dr. Gupta shared eco-friendly honey harvesting methods near heritage sites, while Ms. Lakra outlined legal protections for heritage structures.



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



A welcome to the Chief Guest in the discussion on conservation of cultural property – Durg-Bhilai Chapter

The event saw active participation from experts.

✓ RAIPUR

The Chapter organized Heritage Walk-1 on 28 June, engaging over 20 participants to explore seven historic sites across Raipur. Guided by Dr. Rakesh Kumar Tiwari, Mr. Arvind Mishra, and Mrs. Shivi Joshi, the walk covered key landmarks including the 200-year-old Turi Hatri market, Jagannath Swamy Temple, Jaitusaav Math (visited by freedom fighters), Shri Siddh Sankatmochan Hanuman Temple, Shri Mahavir Vyayamshala, 14th-century Shri Raj Rajeshwari Mahamaya Devi Temple, and Shri Ramchandra Swami Trust Temple.



Participants for Heritage Walk – Raipur Chapter



The event highlighted Raipur's rich cultural heritage and saw active participation from INTACH members and students.

▼ SARAIPALI (SARANGARH – RAIGARH)

On the occasion of World Environment Day, the Chapter, in collaboration with the Forest Department, organized a series of events including an awareness rally, lecture, plantation drive, quiz, and painting competitions at SEZES, Saraipali. The rally, led by Forest Range Officer Pratyush Tande, echoed slogans like 'Save the Environment, Plant Trees,' concluding at Jai Stambh Chowk. At SEZES, fruit and shade trees were planted under the campaign Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam. Participants symbolically tied protective threads around saplings, reinforcing their commitment to tree care.

Convenor Yashwant Kumar Chaudhary highlighted this year's theme, 'Beat Plastic Pollution', urging students to avoid single-use plastics and adopt sustainable practices. Speakers including SMDC President, Amar Jha, Nodal Principal, Jagdish Prasad Patel, SEZES Principal, Manoj Patel, and NCC Officer, Jogilal Patel stressed the urgency of collective environmental action. Students learned about climate change, global warming, and the importance of nurturing a balanced relationship with nature. The slogan 'Go Green – Breathe Clean' was promoted widely. The event concluded with a motivational talk, prize distribution for competition winners, and a vote of thanks by INTACH Life Member, Pushpanjali Chaudhary. Participants, including NCC

cadets, Red Cross and Scout Guide members, students, teachers, and locals, pledged to protect and promote a clean, green environment.

Gujarat

▼ AHMEDABAD

On 3 July, the Chapter, in collaboration with Dr. Utpala Desai, hosted a Teacher Training Workshop at Lalbhai Dalpatbhai Museum. Over 40 educators from 17 schools participated in the two-day event, led by Ms. Purnima Datt, Ms. Sujata Parsai, and Ms. Vineeta Nahar. Day 1 focused on the history and types of Indian textiles, including a hands-on session on tie-dye and Patola weaving. Day 2 involved group activities where teachers developed educational plans to make heritage learning more engaging for students. The workshop concluded with a felicitation and certificate distribution ceremony, recognizing the teachers' commitment to heritage conservation.



Teacher Training Workshop – Ahmedabad Chapter

Haryana

▼ AMBALA

On 17 April, the Chapter celebrated World Heritage Day at Air Force School with enthusiastic participation from 125 students and teachers representing 24 schools. Organized under the leadership of Convenor Col. R.D. Singh, the event featured a heritage quiz, cultural performances, and students dressed in traditional attire. Chief Guest Brig. M.S. Tomar (Retd) and Guests of Honour Dr. Desh Bandhu and Group Captain. Joginder Maini addressed the students. Col. Singh highlighted the Chapter's sixth consecutive Best Chapter Award and achievements in Young INTACH and FilmIt competitions. The program concluded with a visit to St. Paul's Church, inspiring students to value and preserve their heritage.

The Convenor, Chapter participated in a patriotic cycle rally organized by the Brahma Kumaris Centre, Ambala Cantonment. The event included participants of all ages, spreading INTACH's message.

Awareness rally and plantation drive on World Environment Day – Saraipali Chapter



Visits to schools (outside Ambala) – Ambala Chapter





Cycle Rally, Ambala Cantonment
– Ambala Chapter

The Convenor, Chapter visited DAV School, Naraingarh and Prime Steps International School, Shahjadpur to present prizes and certificates for the 'Celebrating India' painting competition and Young INTACH contests. Both schools were appreciated for their active participation and efforts in promoting heritage awareness.

✓ GURGAON/ GURUGRAM

CCA School, Gurugram, in collaboration with INTACH, visited the tomb of French Major Jean Etienne in Mohyal Colony, Gurgaon. A team of students and teachers explored the monument's history, upkeep, and preservation needs. The school interacted with local volunteers and discussed support for maintenance. Heritage-related activities like debates and competitions have been planned to raise awareness. The visit offered a meaningful insight into local history and the importance of conserving such forgotten monuments.



Adoption of 'French Major Jean Etienne Tomb' by
CCA School – Gurgaon Chapter

✓ SONIPAT

The Chapter marked World Heritage Day on 16-17 April with a painting competition at 'SAVERA,' an evening school for underprivileged children at D.C.R. University, Murthal. Around 150 students participated, and plans to start a Heritage Club were shared. A slogan writing competition on 'Our Heritage, Our Pride' was held for university students, receiving enthusiastic participation. An exhibition was jointly organized by the Department of Architecture, INTACH Sonipat, and the UBA Cell, showcasing student work on vernacular architecture and rural heritage. Inaugurated by the Vice Chancellor, the event highlighted the importance of heritage awareness and conservation.



World Heritage Day Celebrations – Sonipat Chapter



'The World Environment Day' celebration
at Gandhi Vatika – Dharamshala Chapter

Himachal Pradesh

✓ DHARAMSALA

On 5 June, World Environment Day was celebrated at Gandhi Vatika, Dharamshala, with participation from students of 12 local schools in activities like poster making, painting, slogan writing, and poetry recitation. Mayor Ms. Neenu Sharma was the Chief Guest, and Mr. Zafar Iqbal, Commissioner DMC and CEO Dharamshala Smart City, presided. The Joint Commissioner MCD was Guest of Honour. INTACH Dharamshala Chapter actively supported the event.

✓ KANGRA

On 1 February, the Chapter organized the all-India poster-making competition "Celebrating India" at Govt. High School, Sidhbari, Dharamshala, with 91 students from 10 schools participating. Convenor L. N. Aggarwal introduced INTACH's work and honored the Chief Guest—owner of Nandpur Fort—who spoke on Himachal's heritage, Kangra paintings, and local traditions.





Students making posters – Kangra Chapter



Convener honoring the Chief Guest – Kangra Chapter



The Convener honoured by ADM – Kangra Chapter



Group photo of honoured women (doctors, nurses and staff) – Kangra Chapter

Kangra Chapter held an International Women’s Day event at Zonal Hospital, Dharamshala, presided over by Chief Guest, Mrs. Shalini Agnihotri IPS and Guest of Honour, Mayor Mrs. Neenu Sharma. Convener L. N. Aggarwal welcomed the gathering, and 35 women staff, including young doctors and nurses, were honoured. The Chief Guest, Mayor, and Senior Medical Superintendent spoke, appreciating INTACH’s efforts.

The Chapter Convener and Co-convener welcomed Chief Guest Shri R. S. Bali, Chairman of Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation, and Special Guest Padma Shri Dr. Kshama Metre, National Director of CORD. The event highlighted INTACH Kangra’s activities and the importance of International Women’s Day.

On 18 June, a felicitation ceremony was held, attended by ADM Kangra, the Chapter Convener, and local dignitaries, to honor Miss Simran, a Class X student from Government High School, Sidhbari. She won a Regional award in the INTACH Painting Competition on the theme *Bharat Ka Utsav*, selected from over 9,000 entries nationwide, bringing pride to Himachal Pradesh.

On 13 July, the Chapter partnered with Sanskar Bharti and Sangeetanjali Kala Kendra to honor Himachali folk and classical stalwarts at Radio Gunjan,

Celebration of World Heritage Day – Mandi Chapter



Dharamsala. Convener L. N. Aggarwal emphasized the importance of preserving oral traditions. The event also saw the release of two cultural publications on Himachali music. The Chapter reaffirms its commitment to cultural preservation and youth engagement.

MANDI

The Chapter held a declamation contest for classes 10 to 12 at DAV Senior Secondary School, Ner Chawk, on World Heritage Day. Eleven students spoke on the theme ‘Threat to Heritage from Disaster and Conflicts,’ stressing the need for youth involvement and awareness campaigns to protect heritage. Naresh Malhotra, Convener of the Chapter encouraged students to join the conservation movement. Additionally, younger students organized an exhibition of traditional household items and clothes from 50 to 100 years ago, showcasing local heritage.



Celebration of World Environment Day – Mandi Chapter



A visit to 450 years old Budha Bingal Temple by the members – Mandi Chapter

On 15 May, members of the Chapter visited the 450-year-old Budha Bingal Temple in Runjh, Mandi. Dedicated to Lord Shiva and surrounded by serene forests, the temple holds historical significance with its deity honoured during Shivratri fairs. Locals associate the site with the Ramayana period. The area's rich flora and fauna make it ideal for meditation.

On 5 June, the Chapter organized a World Environment Day event themed 'Beat Plastic Pollution' at the Government Zonal Hospital, Mandi. Eighty-six nursing trainees participated in discussions on the harmful effects of plastic pollution on soil, water, and climate. A declamation contest highlighted these issues and encouraged public cooperation to reduce pollution. Dr. Deepali Sharma, Chief Medical Officer, presided over the event, urging youth to adopt eco-friendly lifestyles. The Convenor Naresh Malhotra emphasized the importance of collective action to combat pollution.

✓ SHIMLA

The highlight of the year was when the Convenor accompanied Smt. Droupadi Murmu, Hon'ble President of India, on a heritage walk in May 2024. Throughout the year, INTACH conducted numerous heritage walks for ARTRAC officers and visiting dignitaries to Himachal Pradesh, represented the state at the UNESCO conference, and organized lectures and walks for RKMV under an MoU. Additionally, inspections were carried out on post offices for possible restoration at the request of postal authorities, and initial conservation

efforts were initiated at Bishop Cotton School, Shimla.

Jammu & Kashmir

✓ JAMMU

An orientation programme on the conservation and rejuvenation of water bodies was held in February, at the Conference Hall, Udyog Bhawan, Rail Head Complex, Jammu, in collaboration with

the INTACH Jammu Chapter. Mr. Saleem Beg, Convenor of the Jammu Chapter, highlighted the role of INTACH in the conservation of natural heritage projects. INTACH, along with technical staff from the concerned departments, prepared conservation plans for two water bodies/wetlands each in the Jammu and Kashmir provinces. The importance of conserving water through sustainable urban planning approaches was also emphasized. The types of water bodies were identified by the Chapter, and expertise was shared by



Participants and resource persons for the orientation program – Jammu Chapter



A plantation drive during Vanmohatsav Celebrations – Jammu Chapter



the Principal Director, Natural Heritage Division, INTACH.

On 11 July, the Chapter, University of Jammu, and Panch Parivartan NGO held a plantation drive at Shaheed Bhagat Singh Boys Hostel as part of Vanmohatsav celebrations, supported by the Municipal Corporation Jammu and Urban Forestry Division.

During Van Mahotsav, the Jammu Chapter, University of Jammu, and Panch Parivartan NGO held a plantation drive at Shaheed Bhagat Singh Boys Hostel under the Clean Jammu Green Jammu campaign. Chief Guest Dr. S.P. Vaid, IPS (Retd.), former Director General of Police, planted a rare Ginkgo biloba sapling.

Karnataka

✓ BAGALKOT

The Chapter held a Heritage Drawing Competition for 8th and 9th class students at SVP Sanstha's Basav Mantap, Badami, with 65 participants. The event was judged by noted artist Shri Dajiba Jagdale. Convenor Dr. Arun T. Miskin, Co-Convenor Advocate M.S. Hiremath, members, teachers, and Shri Ramesh Mulimani, Superintendent Archaeologist, Dharwad Circle, attended as Guest of Honour.



Heritage drawing competition – Bagalkot Chapter



Lalbagh Bandstand during dismantling – Bangalore Chapter

✓ BANGALORE

On 10 July, the Chapter began restoring the wooden roof of Nalkanad Palace near Madikeri, funded by the Singhal Iyer Family Foundation. They also started work on the Bangalore Club's historic Main Building and are advising on dismantling and restoring the 170-year-old Lalbagh bandstand. Additionally, INTACH is preparing a World Heritage nomination dossier for the Hirebenakal megalithic site, following a June visit with officials and local leaders.

✓ DHARWAD

The INTACH Dharwad Chapter held its Annual General Body Meeting on 9 June at Same Place Resort, attended by 21 members. The Co-Convenor welcomed the members, and a minute of silence was observed in memory of Dr. Ramakant Joshi, Life Member. Proposed activities for the coming year were introduced.



Annual General Body Meeting of the members – Dharwad Chapter

On 10 June, World Environment Day was celebrated at Govt. Kannada Medium High School with the planting of 35 saplings. Students, teachers, and chapter members participated. The Co-Convenor addressed the students for their involvement.

On 10 July, the Chapter visited Banashankari/Shiva Temple at Amargol following a request from local resident Shri S. Patil to decipher an inscription on a temple stone slab. Convenor Dr. Gogi and members explained the inscription and shared the temple's history, dating back to the Chalukya era. The temple is maintained by ASI.

✓ MANGALORE

On 4 April, the Chapter hosted *Natya Chari*, a Bharatanatyam demonstration by Vidushi Ayana Perla at Kodialguthu Centre for Art and Culture. M. Muralidhar Shetty inaugurated the event, highlighting Bharatanatyam's rich heritage. Chief Guest,

'Natya Chari' – A special Bharatanatyam demonstration presented under the auspices of the Chapter – Mangalore Chapter



Dharmadarshi Harikrishna Punaroor praised the dance's growing popularity in coastal Karnataka. Ayana Perla explained and demonstrated 'Chari'—the expressive body movements, central to Bharatanatyam. The event was welcomed by Convenor, Subhash Chandra Basu.

On 23 April, the Chapter held a reading and discussion session on *Erughattada Nadige*, the Kannada translation of Prof. Madhav Gadgil's memoir *A Walk Up the Hill*, at Kodialguthu Centre for Art and Culture. Moderated by Convenor, Subhas Basu, the event featured publisher Kallur Nagesh, Prof. Krishnamurthy, and artist-environmentalist Dinesh Holla. They discussed Gadgil's life, his ecological contributions, and the importance of accessible literature in regional languages.

On 21 June, the Chapter, along with Art Kanara Trust and Chiranthana Charitable Trust, hosted the seventh edition of the Baithak@KodialGuthu series—a Hindustani vocal concert titled 'Celebrate Monsoon in Mangaluru' at KodialGuthu Centre for Art & Culture. Acclaimed vocalist Vibha Srinivas Nayak performed Raag MeghMalhar, Raag Jaijivanti-MiyanMalhar blend, and a Thumri in Raag Desh, accompanied by tabla, harmonium, and tanpura artists.

Historian and archaeologist Pundikai Ganapayya Bhat emphasized the need for a community-led approach to protect ancient monuments, noting that no single formula exists for their preservation. Speaking at an INTACH Mangaluru Chapter event on 'Protection of Monuments:

World Music Day with soulful hindustani vocal Baithak by Vibha Srinivas Nayak – Mangalore Chapter



Threats and Challenges with special reference to Tulunadu,' he stressed that education and systematic documentation are crucial first steps.

Kerala

✓ PALAKKAD

The Chapter hosted a regional round of HECS's national 'Celebrating India' competition at Sharada Krishna Iyer Library, focusing on local intangible heritage. Students from 18 schools, along with parents and INTACH members, participated in poster making and essay writing, creatively showcasing the region's festivals and traditions. The event fostered strong community engagement and cultural awareness, with all participants receiving certificates.

On 22 March, the Chapter hosted an introductory calligraphy workshop at the Palakkad Cosmo Club as part of its Learning Modules for members and non-members. Experts Prajwal Xavier and Athul Jayaraman demonstrated the art of lettering and typography, guiding participants through hands-on sessions using professional tools. The successful pilot event drew 28 registrations, including 12 members.

To commemorate World Heritage Day on 19 April, the Chapter hosted a session featuring renowned elephant photographer and researcher Aneesh Sankarankutty.



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



Participants for 'Introduction to Calligraphy Workshop' – Palakkad Chapter



World Heritage Day event – Palakkad Chapter

Drawing on over 20 years of experience, Aneesh shared striking photographs and insights into elephant behavior and their complex relationship with humans. The event, held at the Palakkad District Library, attracted around 100 attendees and fostered meaningful dialogue on wildlife conservation and heritage preservation, supported by 12 volunteers.

The Chapter's 3-day cultural immersion trip to Chettinad was a great success, with 16 members exploring the region's rich heritage. Highlights included distinctive architecture guided by local experts,



Vallathol, Kalamandalam & Katha of Kathakali – Palakkad Chapter

authentic Chettinad cuisine presented by chefs, and traditional arts and crafts such as Athangudi tile making and handloom weaving, demonstrated by artisans. Participants also learned about ongoing conservation efforts and plans to preserve Chettinad's cultural legacy.

Madhya Pradesh

▼ BHOPAL

Honorable Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav marked International Museum Day by participating in events at the District Museum, joined by dignitaries including Principal Secretary Shivshekhar Shukla, Commissioner of Archaeology Urmila Shukla, local MLAs, and prominent historians. The Chief Minister also released several books, including publications by INTACH Bhopal.

▼ DAMOH

The Chapter was inaugurated at Eklavya University with key dignitaries including



Inauguration of Damoh Chapter

Minister Dharmendra Singh Lodhi, INTACH Chairman Shri Ashok Singh Thakur, and local officials. The event highlighted the importance of preserving Damoh's rich cultural and archaeological heritage, with commitments to support conservation efforts and promote awareness. Dr. Sudha Malaiya was appointed Chapter, Convenor, and the ceremony included discussions on Indian culture's core values and the role of heritage in tourism and education.

▼ DATIA

At the two-day Vasundhara 2025 program marking Dr. Madhu Srivastava's birth anniversary, Convenor of the Chapter was honoured with the Kala Sadhak Samman at the State Museum, Jhansi, for his contributions to preserving Bundelkhand's traditional folk instruments. The event, jointly organized by the State Museum and Lalit Kala Sansthan, Bundelkhand University, was presided over by Dr. Manoj Kumar Gautam. Distinguished guests included Dr. Abha, Dr. Shweta Pandey, and other eminent personalities. The program featured a folk instrument performance directed by Mishra, showcasing around 30 traditional instruments from Bundelkhand.

To mark World Earth Day on 22 April, Datia Chapter organized a traditional *BhooAlankaran* (Earth Adornment) ceremony at Jhirka Bhag, Datia. In a heartfelt tribute to Mother Earth, participants performed rituals including *aarti*, floral offerings, and *prasad* distribution. Led by Convenor Vinod Mishra, the event reflected deep-rooted cultural reverence for nature. Folk artist Radha Vallabh Mishra and local community members also took part. Initiated five years ago by the Chapter, this unique tradition continues to inspire environmental awareness through cultural and community engagement.

On World Museum Day, the Chapter organized a special visit to the Datia Museum, where participants explored rare sculptures, weapons, and Datia Kalam paintings. Former Bank Manager Rajiv Shukla and historian Ravi Thakur praised the museum's rich heritage and called for greater public awareness. The Museum guide provided detailed insights, while



Convenor Vinod Mishra honoured with Kala Sadhak Samman – Datia Chapter



Facilitating the historian during the visit to Datia Museum – Datia Chapter



The inaugural session of the Madhukar Lecture Series – Datia Chapter

Convenor Vinod emphasized the museum's role in preserving collective memory. Historian Ravi Thakur and Ramshree Mishra were felicitated.

The inaugural session of the Madhukar Lecture Series, organized by Madhukar Shodh Sansthan and Datia Chapter, was held on 9 July at Bade Bahadur Ju Ki Haveli. Renowned philosopher Dr. Vidyasagar Upadhyay delivered the keynote on *Atma-Tattva* – the core of Indian philosophy. Kamalkant Sharma, President of the Sansthan, presided over the event with Dr. Rinki Pathak and Dr. Pratibha Upadhyay as special guests. Vinod Mishra, Convenor, opened the session, and Rishiraj Mishra conducted proceedings.

▼ JABALPUR

On 20 July, the Chapter and Ityadi Art Foundation JALAM held a Community Tribal Painting Workshop at Raja Shankar Shah Museum. Chaired by Shri Deepak



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

Khandaker, IAS, over 200 participants engaged in painting activities and toured the museum, including viewing a documentary on freedom fighters Raja Shankar Shah and Raghunath Shah. Convenor of the Chapter highlighted the museum's heritage and conservation efforts. Visitors were moved by the historic jail cell exhibit.

Mango Festival program – Mandla Chapter

✓ MANDLA

The Chapter visited the historic Taragarh site and Vishwa Jyotish Kendra to promote heritage conservation. Starting with worship at Maa Reva, the team led by Convenor Mr. Arun Agarwal and accompanied by former State Minister Hon. Dev Singh Saiyaam, engaged locals at the Gond-era stepwell and Taragarh site. Additional Co-convenor and members discussed the site's significance, while Co-convenor and senior member Mr. Narendra Yadav sought support for preservation efforts.

At the Mango Festival, Praful Mishra highlighted Mandla's renowned mango varieties and urged farmers to adopt fruit cultivation for increased income. MP Jaiprakash Jha encouraged planting fruit trees under the Ek Ped Maa initiative. INTACH Convenor Arun Agarwal stressed



heritage preservation and collaboration with the Horticulture Department. Farmers showcased diverse mangoes, and all participants were honored with certificates. The event was inaugurated by Collector Somesh Mishra and CEO Shreyansh Kumar, with key support from environmentalist Rajesh Kshatriya and local officials.

✓ SHIVPURI

Students of Happy Days School (Classes 6–8) undertook a herbal garden project to promote awareness of medicinal and culinary herbs and encourage sustainable practices. They cultivated tulsi, mint, turmeric, aloe vera, lemongrass, and ginger, gaining hands-on experience in gardening and learning about the health benefits of each herb. The initiative enhanced their practical skills, teamwork, and environmental consciousness while adding a green space to the school campus.

As part of the Young INTACH newsletter theme *Rivers at Risk*, students of Happy Days School participated in a heritage club activity highlighting the importance of rivers in our culture, history, and environment. They were introduced to the threats faced by rivers and their vital role in providing water, irrigation, transport, and livelihoods. A drawing activity and write-up session were conducted, helping students reflect on the value of rivers and the urgent need to conserve them for future generations.

Students of Happy Days School, accompanied by INTACH members, visited the renowned Jacket Factory in Badarwas, Shivpuri (M.P.) to gain firsthand insight into the jacket manufacturing process. The visit began with an introduction to the



Heritage Club activity – Shivpuri Chapter



factory's history, product line, and safety measures. Students observed various stages of production—from design to final assembly—and learned about the machinery and technology involved. The interactive session with factory personnel enriched their understanding of garment manufacturing and connected classroom knowledge with real-world industrial practices.

As part of the Heritage Club hobby, a drawing activity was conducted at Happy Days School on the theme of New Year celebrations across India, based on the Hindu calendar. Students illustrated festivals like Ugadi, Gudi Padwa, Baisakhi, Pohela Boishakh, Puthandu, and Bestu Varas—each reflecting unique cultural traditions. Through this activity, students gained insight into India's rich cultural diversity and the various ways communities celebrate the New Year.

The theme, *World Heritage Wonders under UNESCO* highlights the importance of preserving global heritage sites. Students of Happy Days School explored this by drawing and writing about local heritage sites, gaining insight into their value and the need for conservation.

The Maha Kumbh, held every 12 years at Prayagraj, is a profound spiritual event attracting millions to the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and mythical Saraswati. Heritage Club students of Happy Days School created artworks depicting its various aspects. Through this activity, they learned about the significance of Maha Kumbh, developed artistic and writing skills, and deepened their understanding of Indian culture and diverse faiths.



The Annual General Meeting (AGM) – Amravati Chapter

Students and teachers of Happy Days School attended a mesmerizing *Satvik Veena* concert by Pandit Salil Bhatt, accompanied by tabla artist Kaushik Kunwar. He spoke on culture, performed devotional pieces, and engaged students in singing and a Q&A session. The event promoted classical music and cultural appreciation, ending with a vote of thanks by Director, Mrs. Gita Diwan.

Students of Happy Days School, along with INTACH Heritage and Eco Club members, participated in a bird-watching session guided by Arihant Jain, District Coordinator of the Indian Biodiversity Conservation Society, Shivpuri. The activity helped students learn bird identification, patience, focus, and nature observation. It was an enriching experience that deepened their awareness of local avian diversity.

Happy Days School students explored this heritage by researching and drawing different headgears, learning their history and significance. The activity fostered appreciation for tradition, craftsmanship, and local culture.

Maharashtra

AMRAVATI

The Chapter held its AGM on 6 June at Dr. Aniruddha Deshmukh's hall. Members were welcomed, and four participants of INTACH Delhi workshops were felicitated. Key decisions included documenting built and intangible heritage, publishing informational booklets, and promoting cultural awareness. Plans for the year include a National Quiz Competition in August, forming Heritage Clubs in 10 schools, and conducting art workshops, essay and recipe competitions, and heritage walks and tours. These initiatives aim to preserve and promote the region's cultural legacy.

GREATER MUMBAI

On 18 April, World Heritage Day, the Chapter celebrated the ongoing restoration of GPO Mumbai, a 1913 architectural landmark blending Indo-Saracenic, Islamic, and Gothic styles. Designed by John Begg, its 120-ft dome—India's second largest—had suffered due to pollution and weathering. INTACH's phased restoration, using heritage-sensitive methods, has revived stonework, woodwork, and metal fittings while keeping the post office operational. The final phase will address interiors and structural elements. The project reflects growing public interest and aligns with this year's theme: *protecting heritage from disaster and conflict*.



"Bird Watching" or "Birding" guided by Arihant Jain – Shivpuri Chapter



A celebration from the Heritage Club of the Essence International School – Nagpur Chapter



Chairman at Nagpur Doordarshan on World Heritage Day – Nagpur Chapter

▼ NAGPUR

On World Heritage Day, Doordarshan Nagpur featured a special interview with Shri Ashok Singh Thakur Chairman, INTACH and Dr. Madhura Rathod, Governing Council Member, INTACH, hosted by Mrs. Revati Joshi. The discussion highlighted INTACH's efforts in heritage conservation, public participation, and youth engagement. Shri Ashok Singh Thakur shared insights on national initiatives and the need for public participation in heritage conservation, while Dr. Madhura Rathod emphasized community involvement and local activities by INTACH Nagpur.

Essence International School celebrated the commencement of its INTACH Heritage Club with a heritage pledge, a cultural performance, and a special song dedicated to the club. The event was led by teachers. Awards were given to the school, teachers, and students for their contributions to heritage activities. Dr. Madhura Rathod, Convenor, Nagpur Chapter, urged students to protect both tangible and intangible heritage.

▼ PUNE

HECS, INTACH and the Chapter, in association with Vidya Pratishthan's



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

School of Architecture (VPSOA), Baramati, organized a two-day Teacher Training Workshop on INTACH Heritage Clubs in Baramati. Held at VPSOA, the workshop was attended by 49 teachers from 20 rural Pune schools. Sessions covered heritage education, teacher's kits, heritage club formation, and included a guided heritage tour led by Dr. Seemantini Chaphalkar. Participants received HECS resource kits and certificates.

On 26 April, a Shaniwar Wada Heritage Walk was held to mark World Heritage Day and Peshwa Bajirao I's death anniversary, led by EC members Dr. Chetan Saharabudhe and Madhur Barve. On 27 June, the Chapter Co-Convenor Jui Tawade represented the Chapter as a panelist at the HCL Tech Grant Symposium on 'Reviving Heritage, Rebuilding Livelihoods'.

As part of its monthly walk series, the Chapter organized a Sports Heritage Walk at the Blades of Glory Museum on 28 June, led by ex-Maharashtra captain Milind Gunjal. The museum houses over 75,000 cricket memorabilia, including Sachin Tendulkar's 2011 World Cup final jersey and Virat Kohli's 2016 bat.



Participants for a Sports Heritage Walk – Pune Chapter

On 7 July, Co-Convenor Supriya Mahabaleshwarkar served as an expert resource for a cultural landscape field trip with VPSOA architecture students, visiting a sacred grove in the Western Ghats and engaging with the local community.

Customized heritage walks for visitor groups, including students from Pearl Academy Mumbai and Mysore School of Architecture, were conducted by Co-convenor.

INTACH Pune EC member Dr. Mukul Mahabaleshwarkar contributed as a key resource person for the Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board's Compendium 'Sacred Groves of Maharashtra,' aiding future research and conservation efforts.

▼ SOLAPUR

On 24 November, the Chapter conducted two heritage walks at Solapur Fort. The first, led by Dr. Seemantini Chaphalkar, was for a group of visitors from Pune. The second walk, for a mixed group of heritage enthusiasts from Pune, Odisha, Telangana, and Solapur, was conducted by Co-Convenor Ar. Shveta Kothavale and



Dr. Chaphalkar conducting the walk – Solapur Chapter



Participants at Solapur Fort during heritage walk – Solapur Chapter

Dr. Chaphalkar. Both groups appreciated learning about the region's medieval history and the fort's significance.

On 8 December, the Chapter conducted a heritage walk to commemorate Saint Dnyaneshwar's *Sanjivan Samadhi*. Starting at Abhijit Bhadange's Wada, where he handwrote the *Dnyaneshwari*, the walk included visits to Rukmini-Vitthal Mandir and Radha-Krishna Mandir. The event, convened by Dr. Seemantini Chaphalkar, was well attended by heritage enthusiasts. The walk was covered by local media and YouTube influencers.



Students at the competition – Solapur Chapter

On 4 January, the Chapter held a Poster and Essay Competition at Annappa Kadadi High School, with 142 students from 15 schools participating. The event, led by Co-Convenor Ar. Pushpanjali Katikar, featured an address by expert Shri H.B. Jaamdar on local festivals and their agricultural ties. Students created artworks showcasing Solapur's cultural heritage.

On 5 January, Prof. Dr. Narendra Katikar was formally inducted as Convenor of INTACH Maharashtra Chapter. Founding Convenor Dr. Seemantini Chaphalkar reviewed 12 years of heritage work. Mr. Mukund Bhogale, Convenor INTACH Maharashtra, and Dr. Sharvey Ghongade, Co-Convenor INTACH Maharashtra, praised the Chapter's efforts. Dr. Katikar outlined plans to use technology and engage youth in conservation. Conservation Architect Ar. Tejashwini Aphale presented on heritage restoration challenges at Jejuri, Pandharpur, and Chandwad. The event was attended by members and prominent citizens.

Founding Convenor Dr. Seemantini Chaphalkar has begun a series of articles



Punyathithi of Shri Appasaheb Warad – Solapur Chapter



Convenor Dr. Katikar welcoming the gathering – Solapur Chapter



Dr. Pandit delivering the inaugural lecture – Solapur Chapter



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

on the genesis of modern Solapur. Dr. Maya Patil contributed insights on Solapur's rich heritage, while Dr. Chaphalkar also explored tourism opportunities related to the city's heritage.

The Chapter prepared a Condition Assessment Report for the Solapur Head Post Office at the request of the Senior Superintendent of Post Offices, Solapur Division. The building is among five Head Post Offices proposed for restoration across India.

On 17 June, the *Punyathithi* of Shri Appasaheb Warad, a visionary of Solapur, was observed. The first Vice Chancellor of Punyashlok Ahilyabai Holkar Solapur University, along with family and well-wishers, attended the event. Co-Convenor Ar. Shveta Kothawale discussed plans to set up a memorial gallery at Indrabhavan and restore the old bungalow on the premises.



Ar. Tejashwini Aphale presenting her work – Solapur Chapter

On 19 April, the Chapter launched the Late Anand Kumbhar Lecture Series

in association with Shri Heerachand Nemchand Vachanalaya. Dr. Suraj Pandit delivered the inaugural lecture on 'Civil Heritage and Archaeology,' highlighting Mumbai's layered history and the need for city museums. A film on Late Anand Kumbhar was screened, and his son Shri Ravi Shankar Kumbhar was felicitated. The event was well-attended by heritage enthusiasts. The lecture is available on INTACH Solapur Chapter YouTube channel – <https://youtu.be/cj2zXR4-xK0>

On 21 April, Convenor Dr. Narendra Katikar spoke on heritage conservation on Akashvani Solapur for World Heritage Day.

On 28 June, the Chapter organized a heritage walk to Indra Bhavan, the historic mansion of Punyashlok Appasaheb Warad, to mark his 175th birth anniversary. Now the Solapur Commissionerate, the structure was restored by Solapur Smart City in 2021-22 following efforts by the Chapter. The walk was facilitated by Solapur Municipal Corporation and conducted by the Founding Convenor of the Chapter. She highlighted Warad's contributions and the architectural features of the mansion. Over 50 participants, including Warad family members, attended.

Manipur

On 5 April, the Manipur Chapter, in collaboration with the Rongmei Literature Society, observed International Mother Language Day at JN Manipur Dance Academy, Imphal, focusing on the Rongmei community's oral traditions and intangible cultural heritage. Eminent speakers, including Dr. Homen Thangjam, Prof. Naorem Joykumar, and Saratchand Thiyam, highlighted the importance of preserving indigenous languages, with special emphasis on folklore as a living repository of identity, values, and history. Technical sessions, cultural performances, and scholarly discussions underscored the role of oral narratives in education, social cohesion, and cultural continuity. The event concluded with a call for inclusive language policies and the documentation of indigenous traditions, to safeguard Manipur's linguistic diversity.



Special emphasis on folklore by an artist as a living repository – Manipur Chapter



Young scholars savoring the deep discourses – Manipur Chapter



Inaugural song by Rongmei Youth – Manipur Chapter



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

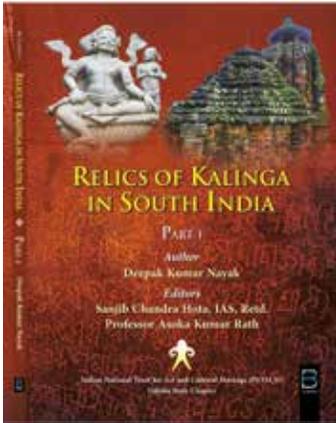
Orissa

✓ CUTTACK

On 27 April, the Chapter, in collaboration with the State Chapter, officially launched the book *Relics of Kalinga in South India, Part-I* at the IPS Officers' Mess in Cuttack. Authored by Deepak Kumar Nayak and edited by Sanjib Chandra Hota and Dr. Asoka Kumar Rath, the book documents archaeological and historical sites linked to Kalinga heritage, in five districts of North Andhra Pradesh. Padmashri Dr. Priyambada



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



Mohanty Hejmadi released the book as Chief Guest, joined by other dignitaries and INTACH members. Future volumes will cover remaining the Kalinga relics across South India.

Punjab

On 30 April, the 188th martyrdom anniversary of Sikh commander, Sardar Hari Singh Nalwa was commemorated at Guru Gobind Singh Public School, Hoshiarpur. Organized by INTACH Punjab and the Hari Singh Nalwa Foundation Trust, the event honored Nalwa's legacy as a military leader and administrator of the Sikh Empire. Over 700 attendees, including students, INTACH members, and Nalwa's descendants, gathered under Principal Harjit Singh's leadership. Speeches by Lt Gen A S Bahia (Retd), Maj Gen Balwinder Singh (Retd), and Maj Gen (Dr) Kulpreet Singh (Retd) highlighted his bravery at



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



Earth Day Celebration – Punjab State Chapter

the Khyber Pass, his role in expanding the empire, and his administrative achievements. The event concluded with a pledge to preserve his legacy and inspire future generations.

INTACH Punjab is actively pursuing the restoration of Jagatjit Palace, which houses Sainik School Kapurthala. Built in 1908 and inspired by France's Palace of Versailles, the palace holds great cultural and architectural value. INTACH is working to preserve this iconic landmark before further decay sets in.

On Earth Day in April 2025, Lt Col Jasjit Singh, INTACH Life Member, addressed around 1,000 students at Sacred Heart School, Mohali, on environmental and climate change issues. The session was well received, reflecting INTACH Punjab's ongoing efforts to raise awareness on critical concerns across the state.

The Chapter celebrated World Heritage Day by engaging architecture students of Lovely Professional University (LPU), Jalandhar, through a heritage talk and a visit to Shaheed Bhagat Singh's ancestral house at Khatkar Kalan, fostering awareness of Punjab's rich cultural legacy.

APJ Fine Arts College and the Chapter organized an Art and Cultural Extravaganza at the College, Jalandhar. The inauguration was graced by the Governor of Punjab as Chief Guest, while the Prize Distribution saw the Punjab State Convenor presiding. The event showcased India's traditional arts and crafts, featuring workshops to explore the country's rich cultural heritage, with artisans from various states invited to participate.



Cultural Extravaganza at APJ Fine arts college, Jalandhar – Punjab State Chapter

After nearly 200 years, Ferozepur Fort was opened to the public on Sundays and holidays through the Chapter's efforts. Built in 1839, it has three defensive layers and played a key role in the 1857 Sepoy Revolt and British siege of Delhi's Red Fort. Used as an ammunition depot post-independence, it was vacated in the 1980s due to its deteriorating condition.

AMRITSAR

On World Heritage Day, the Chapter organized a heritage tour highlighting Sikh Raj-era frescoes, showcasing Punjab's rich art and architecture. Led by Gagandeep Singh Virk, 48 members visited historic temples, including the Radha Kishan Temple in Kishankot, famed for its preserved wall art. Virk emphasized the importance of heritage awareness to connect younger generations with Punjab's cultural legacy, praising the Convenor Maj. Gen. Balwinder Singh's leadership in advancing INTACH's work across the state.

The Chapter held a lecture titled *Guru Nanak: an Embodiment of Oneness* by



Participants for celebration of World Heritage Day – Amritsar Chapter



Heritage awareness during celebration of World Heritage Day – Amritsar Chapter

historian Amardeep Singh at Virsa Vihar. The event celebrated Guru Nanak's universal message of unity and was attended by scholars, students, and cultural leaders. Chief Guest Bibi Inderjeet Kaur and Special Guest Kewal Dhaliwal praised Singh's impactful work on Sikh heritage through his books and documentaries. INTACH leaders highlighted the importance of reviving Amritsar's literary culture. Singh emphasized the widespread presence of Sikh communities across India and the need to unite them under Guru Nanak's philosophy. The session was moderated by Dr. Naresh Kumar and concluded with guest honors and book displays.

▼ BATHINDA

On World Heritage Day, 18 April, the Bathinda, Faridkot, and Malerkotla Chapters jointly visited the heritage Canal

Guest House in Teeona village, Bathinda district. Conveners, Bhim Singh Kanwar (Bathinda), Baltej Singh Brar (Faridkot), and Salim Mohamad (Malerkotla) highlighted the significance of heritage buildings in their regions. Members from all three chapters participated actively, while Raj Kumar Aggarwal, Co-convenor Faridkot, emphasized the day's importance and delivered the vote of thanks.

▼ FARIDKOT

On 18 April, INTACH Bathinda, Faridkot, and Malerkotla Chapters jointly celebrated World Heritage Day. The team, led by Conveners Kanwar Bhim Singh, Prof. Baltej Singh Brar, Dr. Salim Mohd, and Er. Raj Aggarwal, visited three historic buildings: the 130-year-old Canal Rest House in Teona, the 125-year-old Nehri Kothi Gulabgarh under renovation, and the well-preserved Methodist Church near Bathinda Railway Station. Members shared their insights on TV, and the conveners welcomed suggestions to organize similar heritage visits with broader participation in the future, making it a valuable and enjoyable experience.

▼ FIROZPUR

To mark World Heritage Day, the Chapter organized a visit to the historic Jamni Sahib Gurudwara in Firozpur for the DCMI School



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



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

students. They learnt about the site's rich heritage and spiritual importance, offered prayers at Guru Granth Sahib Ji, performed *panjishnaan* in the sacred pond, and participated in *langar*, embracing the values of unity, service, and cultural connection.

As part of efforts to promote tourism in the border district, around 70 individuals—including prominent businessmen, doctors, and educationists—visited Firozpur on



Participants along with the speaker and the historian Amardeep Singh during the lecture which was curated on the philosophy of Guru Nanak – Amritsar Chapter



Celebration of World Heritage Day – Firozpur Chapter



A visit to the memorial at Hussainiwalla – Firozpur Chapter



Veer and Veteran Punjab border Heritage Bike Riders – Firozpur Chapter

6 April. They toured the National Martyrs Memorial at Hussainiwalla and witnessed the stirring retreat ceremony at the Indo-Pak Joint Check Post. The visitors praised INTACH Firozpur Chapter for its commendable work in boosting regional tourism.

To boost tourism in the region, INTACH Firozpur Chapter welcomed the Veer and Veterans Punjab Border Heritage Bike Riders and hosted their participation in a Round Table Conference, highlighting the role of heritage and patriotic tourism along the border.

✓ JALANDHAR

Swami Sant Dass Public School, Phagwara, celebrated World Heritage Day with zeal to promote awareness of cultural preservation. Class VIII presented a 'Show and Tell on Punjab and Andhra Pradesh', Class VII joined a heritage quiz, Class IX held a Heritage Walk with slogans, and Class X created posters and slogans on conservation. The event highlighted the collective duty to safeguard our heritage for future generations.



Celebration of World Heritage Day – Jalandhar Chapter



Celebration of World Heritage Day 2025 – Jalandhar Chapter

R.D. Khosla DAV Model Sr. Sec. School celebrated World Heritage Day 2025 with cultural vibrance and patriotic spirit, under the banner of INTACH Jalandhar Chapter. Students showcased India's rich heritage through poems, speeches, paintings, and regional cuisine, highlighting Unity in Diversity. A Heritage Pledge was taken to protect cultural treasures. Principal, Dr. Bindu Bhalla emphasized the importance of preserving heritage, especially in line with this year's theme—'Disaster and Conflict-Resilient Heritage.'

✓ TARN TARAN

The Saragarhi Memorial at Dhun Dhai Wala village, Tarn Taran, dedicated to martyr Naik Lal Singh, was recently revived with support from the Chapter. Villagers, led by Sarpanch Jagroop Singh and the Convenor, Dr. Baljit Kaur, restored a historic well at the site. The land, belonging to Naik Lal Singh, now serves as a heritage spot, with annual commemorations drawing large crowds. The Chapter's continues efforts to preserve the legacy of the 1897 Battle of Saragarhi, where Lal Singh and 20 others displayed unmatched bravery.

Tarn Taran actively participated in Heritage Week by organizing a spirited Heritage Walk to various historic sites, engaging the community in celebrating and preserving local heritage.



Well revived at Saragarhi Martyr Memorial site in Tarn Taran – Tarn Taran Chapter



Participants for heritage walk at a heritage site – Tarn Taran Chapter

Rajasthan

ALWAR

On 11 March, the Chapter celebrated Holi with *Rang Parampara Ke* at Krishna Vatika Park, showcasing traditional folk songs and dances by women and girls from Aryanagar. A special act by children as Radha and Krishna added a festive spirit. The event, aimed at preserving local cultural traditions, saw participation from over 100 women and was well appreciated by the community.

On 29 March, the Chapter celebrated the Gangaur festival with a mehndi event at Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School, Deviji Ki Gali. Around 50 girls from Classes 9 to 11 participated, promoting traditional customs. Convenor, Ms. Sunita Mittal emphasized the cultural significance of mehndi and preserving folk heritage.



Cultural Program titled "Rang Parampara Ke" – Alwar Chapter



Special Program titled "Mehndi Gangaur Ki" – Alwar Chapter

On World Heritage Day, the Chapter organized a program titled '*Virasat Se Roobaroo*', taking students and volunteers on a heritage tour of historical and natural sites. A key stop was *Natni ka Baran*, linked to the nearly extinct Ruparel River, rich in legend, biodiversity, and scenic beauty. Experts spoke on aquatic life and medicinal plants, while a quiz on local heritage engaged participants. Program Coordinator, Rajkumar Saini led a discussion on heritage conservation, encouraging personal and collective action. The event concluded with a heritage pledge and a vote of thanks by INTACH members.

On 18 April, the Chapter celebrated World Heritage Day with the 'Face to Face' program at Natni Ka Baran. Students, volunteers, and members participated in talks on migratory birds, local wildlife, and heritage conservation. Experts highlighted the importance of preserving Alwar's cultural and architectural heritage. The event concluded with a heritage walk led by INTACH Convenor Sunita Mittal, inspiring participants to protect their heritage.

On 22 April, the Chapter held a clean-up drive at Lal Diggi swimming pool with 40 students and members participating. Historian Harishankar Goyal spoke on Lal Diggi's role in traditional water management. Convenor Sunita Mittal emphasized the theme 'Our Power, Our Planet,' urging collective environmental responsibility.



11th International Yoga Day – Alwar Chapter

For International Yoga Day, a five-day yoga camp concluded on 21 June at Ramvatika Park with 90–110 participants practicing various *Yogasanas*. The event highlighted yoga's benefits for physical and mental health. The Convenor led a pledge to incorporate daily yoga.

BARMER

On 5 June, World Environment Day, the Chapter and Shri Rani Bhatiyani Mandir Sansthan organized an awareness program at Shri Rani Rupade Ji Temple, Palia. Rawal Kishan Singh Jasol and Jetmal Singh Rathore emphasized tree planting, water conservation, and nurturing environmental awareness in children. Students participated in plantation drives and were served snacks.

BEAWAR

The Chapter renovated the auditorium of Government Patel Higher Secondary School, inaugurated on 15 July with support from Bhamashah Sanjay Garg. MLA Shankar Singh Rawat and District Collector Kamal Ram Meena praised INTACH's heritage efforts, highlighting Beawar's historical significance and the role of Heritage Clubs in schools and winners of the HECS *Rangarang Bharat* poster competition received medals. A patriotic event, *Ek Shaam Sainik Ke Naam*, was also held on May 31 to honor soldiers.



Inaugurated the auditorium of the school renovated by the Chapter – Beawar Chapter



Participants for Essay Competition on World Water Day – Bhilwara Chapter

▼ BHILWARA

On 22 March, the Chapter organized an essay competition on water conservation at Govt. Higher Secondary School, Pansal. Convenor, Babulal Jaju stressed the urgent need to save water. All 27 student participants received certificates and water conservation materials. The event concluded with remarks from teachers and a vote of thanks by the Principal.

▼ BIKANER

On World Heritage Day, the Chapter and Rotary Club Supreme organized a joint seminar titled *Virasat Se Roobaroo* at the Rotary Club auditorium. The event focused on the preservation of Bikaner's cultural and architectural heritage. Highlights included discussions on traditional water management, the significance of folk literature, and the recognition of India's

Bhagavad Gita and *Natya Shastra* as UNESCO World Heritage documents. Artist Yogendra Purohit proposed using art as a medium to promote heritage awareness, while keynote speaker, Mr. Hinglaj Daan Ratanu stressed developing Bikaner's heritage sites as cultural tourism destinations. The event concluded with a collective call for community engagement, administrative cooperation, and practical initiatives to safeguard Bikaner's rich legacy.

▼ BUNDI

International Museum Day on 18 May was celebrated by INTACH and the Archaeology Department with a seminar at Sukh Mahal museum. Speakers stressed preserving heritage, digitizing museums, and protecting ancient languages. Archaeologist Om Prakash Kuki and Museum Superintendent Jagdish Verma were honoured for their contributions.

On 22 June, as part of Bundi Foundation Day celebrations, INTACH and Bharat Scouts and Guides organized a heritage walk starting from Bharat Scouts Bhawan to Garh Palace. Led by INTACH Convenor, students learned about Bundi's historic sites from tourism experts and historians. Miniature artist Gopal Soni amazed

participants with a live nail-painting demo. At Chitrashala, speakers discussed promoting Bundi tourism,

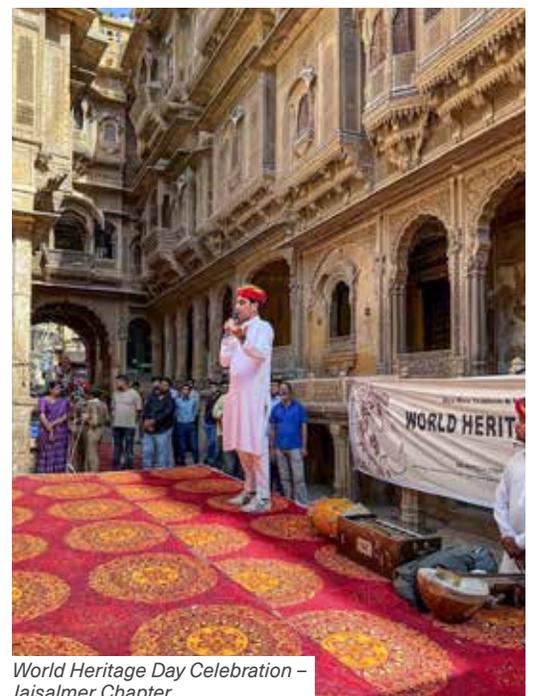
For the 784th Foundation Day of *Choti Kashi Bundi*, the District Administration, Tourism Department, and the Chapter held celebrations including the inauguration of Garh Ganesh with Vedic chants and aarti. Monuments were thrown open free to the public. A tree plantation drive was launched called the 'Plant Saplings, Beautify Bundi' campaign. A photo and painting exhibition showcasing Bundi's heritage opened at the State Museum. The event ended with traditional folk dance performances at heritage sites, celebrating Bundi's culture.

▼ JAISALMER

On World Heritage Day, Jaisalmer celebrated its rich legacy with a vibrant heritage walk from Sonar Fort to Patwon Ki Haveli, led by tourism expert Brajkishore Gopa. Locals, tourists, and students joined the colorful event featuring folk performances and camel processions. At Patwon Ki Haveli, a student painting exhibition and a collaborative 'Public Art Canvas' promoted awareness of heritage conservation. The celebrations reflected a strong community spirit and commitment to preserving Jaisalmer's historic charm.



A group photo of Bundi Foundation Day Celebrations – Bundi Chapter



World Heritage Day Celebration – Jaisalmer Chapter

The Chapter also submitted a proposal for wells and water conservation to promote sustainable heritage in the region.

✓ **NAGAUR**

On World Environment Day, 5 June, the Chapter held an awareness program focused on water conservation under the theme 'If there is water, there is life.' The event included cleanliness drives, poster-making, and street plays, engaging volunteers, students, and locals to promote environmental protection and sustainable living.

The historic city of Medta, known for its rich cultural heritage, is home to ancient warrior memorials (Devalis) dating from the 15th to 18th centuries, located within the Agricultural Produce Market and Extension Office premises. These long-neglected



monuments have now been successfully conserved through the efforts of INTACH and Shri Chaturbhuj Shiksha Samiti, marking a significant step in preserving Medta's historical legacy.

✓ **POKHRAN – PHALODI**

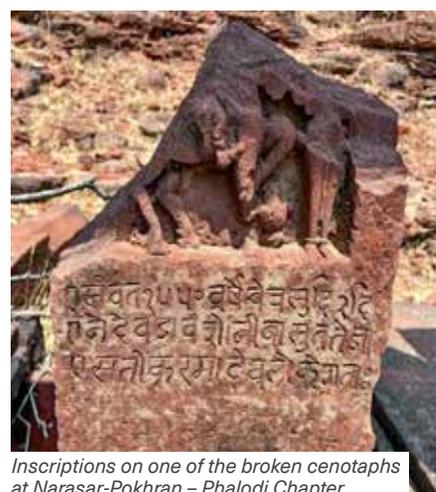
Narasar Talao, built in the 15th century by Rao Nara, founder of old Pokhran (Satalmer), is a popular picnic spot during the rainy season. The Chapter has undertaken desilting and deepening of the Talao and restoration of the nearby cenotaphs at Narasar Kund. Newly joined member, Shri Balwant Jodha, is leading the restoration efforts, working diligently with public support to protect the cenotaphs from damage by antisocial elements.

The Chapter Convenor G.S. Bhati and Co-Convenor Devi Singh Bhati attended a capacity-building program on sacred grove (Oran) conservation organized by NGO KRPAVIS in Phalodi. The program focused on protecting Orans following the December 2024 Supreme Court judgment in the Godavaraman case. The informative event was successful and received good media coverage.

Conducted cultural heritage awareness programme on World Environment Day – Nagaur Chapter



Cenotaph of Rao Nara at Narasar Kund Complex- Pokhran – Phalodi Chapter



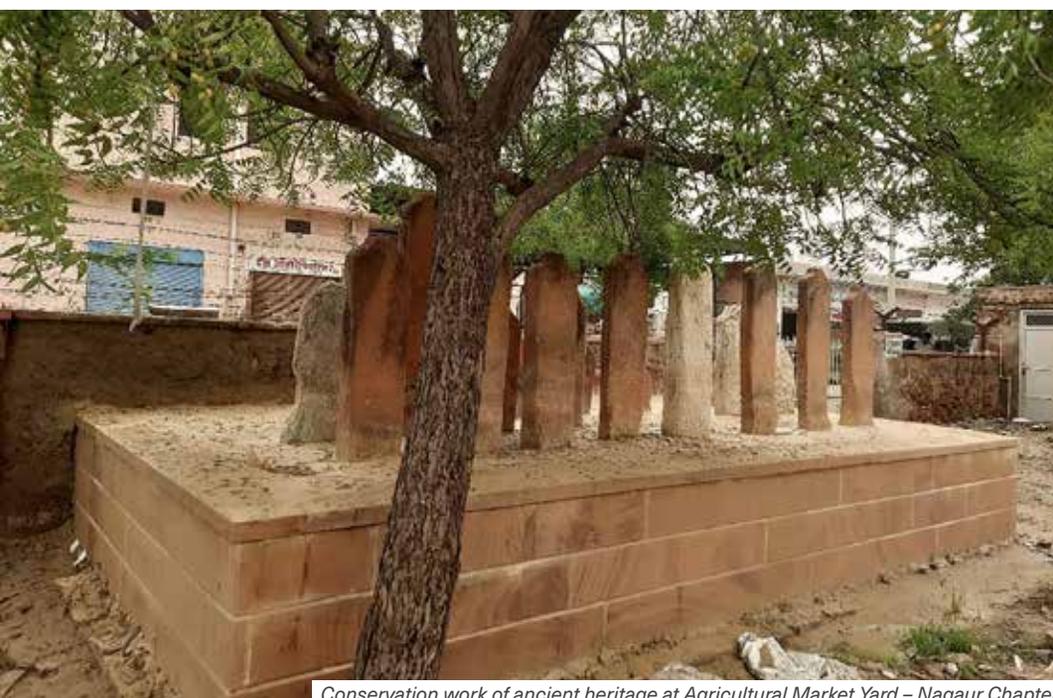
Inscriptions on one of the broken cenotaphs at Narasar-Pokhran – Phalodi Chapter



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

✓ **RAJSAMAND**

The Chapter organized a six-day Swaroochhi Camp from 25-30 June, led by Dr Rachna Tailang (Director). Training included dance by Ms. Sapna Rajpurohit, painting by Shri Rajesh Tailang, and mehndi and cooking by Sandhya Kashyap. The camp featured daily yoga, spiritual sessions, performances at a local festival, an art exhibition, and ended with awards for outstanding students.



Conservation work of ancient heritage at Agricultural Market Yard – Nagaur Chapter



Participants for heritage walk on World Heritage Day in Churu – Shekhawati Chapter



World Heritage Day wall painting heritage week – Shekhawati Chapter



VHAH FEST – Shekhawati Chapter



Deputy CM Rajasthan, Princess Diya Kumariji visited Ramgarh Shekhawati – Shekhawati Chapter



VHAH FEST – Shekhawati Chapter

✓ SHEKHAWATI

The INTACH Shekhawati Chapter commemorated World Heritage Day with a dynamic series of cultural and educational events across Navalgarh, Churu, Dundlod, and Ramgarh Shekhawati.

In Navalgarh, activities began on 18 April with a student-led Heritage Walk, followed by a Wall Painting Week (18-24 April) at the *Museum of Heritage and Art (MOHAR)*, where women, youth, and children participated in transforming public spaces with heritage-themed art. Special guided tours were conducted at the Vivana Museum Hotel by Atul Khanna, Co-Convener, INTACH. MOHAR also hosted a special exhibition of Raja Ravi Varma artworks and featured presentations on the Mohar Haveli’s unique Company-style wall paintings by Shruti Poddar, Convener of the Chapter.

On 19 April, the Chapter, in collaboration with Nagar Parishad, Shruti Foundation, and Nagar Shri Museum, conducted a heritage walk and large art competition involving students from Jhunjhunu, Sikar, and Churu districts, commemorating World Heritage Day.

On 21 April, the Chapter organized heritage walks and interactive sessions at Vivana Museum Hotel, Navalgarh, coupled with an INTACH membership drive. Convener and co-convenors of the Chapter addressed participants who toured the museum.

On 22 April, Thakur Raghuvendra Singh Dundlod hosted an event at Dundlod Fort with school children and community members to discuss heritage conservation and the significance of the Marwari horse breed.

On 21 June, the Chapter Convener conducted a Nada Yoga workshop at MOHAR Haveli, Ramgarh Shekhawati, attended by students and locals. The session was part of a week-long Hath Yoga series and included a tour of Raja Ravi Varma oleograph exhibits. Adding to the cultural Celebration (VHAH festival), Ramgarh Shekhawati hosted at *Vedaaranya Haveli Hotel* on 19-20 April



Deputy CM Rajasthan, Princess Diya Kumariji visited Ramgarh Shekhawati – Shekhawati Chapter

offering audiences a rich experience of the region's living traditions. These initiatives successfully brought together communities, artists, and students in a collective effort to celebrate and preserve the vibrant cultural heritage of Shekhawati.

On 29 April, 2025, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Princess Diya Kumari, visited Ramgarh in Shekhawati as part of the state's heritage redevelopment initiative. Invited by Shruti Nada Poddar, INTACH Shekhawati Convenor, she attended a meeting at the MoHAR Museum, visited Vedaaranya Haveli, inaugurated a Raja Ravi Varma art exhibition, and toured the town's historic havelis and chhatris, including the 19th-century Ramayan Chhatri (Ram Gopal Poddar Chhatri), which is being redeveloped into a museum. Her visit brought renewed attention and momentum to the preservation of Shekhawati's rich mural and architectural heritage, which she praised for its unique beauty.

Tamil Nadu

The Chapter has finalized the manuscript for a unique book titled *Understanding the South Indian Temple*, covering Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu. Submitted to INTACH's Architectural Heritage Division for editing and publication. Based on extensive field and archival research, it features numerous photographs and line drawings, including rare images of lesser-known temples, sculptures, paintings, and inscriptions, many published for the first time.



Virupaksha Temple, Hampi, Karnataka – Tamil Nadu Chapter



Vaikunta Perumal Temple, Kanchipuram – Tamil Nadu Chapter



Sri Rama Temple, Triprayar, Kerala – Tamil Nadu Chapter

The Chapter coordinated the signing of an MOU between INTACH and Southern Railway for the restoration of the Grade-I listed Southern Railway Headquarters Building in Chennai, adjacent to Chennai Central Station. After nearly two years of discussions led by State Convenor Dr. S. Suresh, the restoration work will be begun soon.

On 18 April, the Chapter conducted a Heritage Awareness Program in Mahabali-puram, organizing an educational tour for children of local sculptors and fishermen. Led by Dr. Suresh, the tour aimed to raise awareness of the site's historic and architectural significance among residents who live amid the ruins but lack knowledge of their heritage. Similar programs at other heritage sites like Saluvankuppam are planned for the near future.

CHENNAI

On 4 April, the Chapter hosted a lecture titled *The India I Saw – The Freedom Struggle as seen by Ambujammal* by historian Sriram V. at Srinivasa Gandhi Nilayam, Alwarpet. Based on the English translation of Ambujammal's auto-



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

biography, the talk highlighted her sacrifices as a Gandhian freedom fighter and social worker. Sriram shared insights into her life, the freedom struggle, and the socio-cultural context of Madras, enriching members' understanding of this historic period.

On 25 April, Venkatesh Ramakrishnan spoke at Ashvita's, Mylapore, on *Strangers in the Sun: Trailblazers from Across the Seas in Pre-Independent India*. He explored the lives and contributions of around half a million foreigners from diverse countries that lived in India before independence, including doctors, artists, administrators, and conservationists, emphasizing their lasting impact on India's history and culture.



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



On 29 May, Sivasankar Babu presented *Sweet Talk – ALWA that is HALWA: Indian Culinary History of Sweets* at Ashvita’s, Mylapore. The talk covered the origins, regional varieties, chemistry, and cultural significance of halwa, a popular Indian sweet. Sivasankar, a heritage and temple historian shared fascinating connections between food, tradition, and culture with INTACH members.

On 26 June, the Chapter screened the documentary *SHAKTIDASAN: A Poet’s Quest for Truth* on Subramania Bharathi at Ashvita’s, Mylapore. Produced by Soundarya Sukumar, the 70-minute Tamil film with English subtitles focused on Bharathi’s spiritual quest and revolutionary ideas, featuring locations significant to his life. The event was graced by the producer, director Usha Rajeswari, and renowned Carnatic vocalist Sikkil Gurucharan.

On 5 July, the Young INTACH Chennai Chapter organized a pictorial lecture on *Heritage and Culture of India* by Dr. Chitra Madhavan at Sri Sankara Senior Secondary School, Adyar. With 250 enthusiastic students attending, Dr. Madhavan’s talk on ancient Indian scripts, inscriptions, sculptures, and temple architecture ignited heritage awareness among the young audience, fostering appreciation for India’s rich cultural legacy.

✓ NAGERCOIL

On 5 June, INTACH Kanyakumari celebrated *World Environment Day* at Kavimoni Desiga Vinayagam Pillai Govt. HSS, Nagercoil. Convenor spoke on the theme *‘Beat the Plastic,’* stressing the harmful effects of plastic and suggesting simple alternatives. Ms. Nina Joseph, Green Fellow, and environmentalist Ms. Jeyanthi addressed the students, who also took a green pledge. INTACH member Mr. Joe Prakash highlighted the day’s importance. Over 300 students participated in the event.

An *Art from Waste* competition was held for students as part of the World Environment Day celebration. Prizes and certificates were awarded to the top three winners, and participation certificates were distributed to all participants.



Competition for school students on ‘Art from Waste’ – Nagercoil Chapter



Tree planting by members – Nagercoil Chapter

To mark World Environment Day 2025, the Chapter, led by Convenor, organized a tree planting drive at Kavimani Desiga Vinayagam Pillai Government Hr. Sec. School. Native *Magilum* saplings, known for their shade and fruit-bearing qualities, were planted with active participation from over 1200 students, teachers, and INTACH members.

On 22 May, the Chapter observed International Day of Biological Diversity and World Turtle Day at Hotel Pioneer Grand Palace, Nagercoil. Convenor spoke on the themes *Harmony with Nature and Sustainable Development* and *Dancing Turtles Rock*. Speakers Dr. R. Suresh Swamiyar Kaani and Ms. Nina Joseph shared insights on biodiversity and local efforts to protect Olive Ridley turtles. Members shared experiences from the XIV Capacity Building Workshop. New members Dr. Devaprasath and Dr. Renu Devaprasath were welcomed. The event also touched on the Kaani tribe’s traditional medicinal practices, a key local heritage.

On 22 May, Dr. R. Suresh Swamiyar Kaani,



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



The speaker, Dr Kaani along with participants during the World Biodiversity Day celebration – Nagercoil Chapter

from the Kani tribe of Kanyakumari, spoke at INTACH’s World Biodiversity Day event about *Kaatu Vaithiyam*—the tribe’s traditional forest medicine. He shared unique birthing practices and healing methods using local herbs, highlighting his research on 142 medicinal plants. His talk gave a fascinating insight into indigenous healing knowledge.

On 29 May, the Chapter visited the Kalmadam at Kavalkinaru near Nagercoil, a historic two-storey stone wayside inn used by travelers in ancient times. Though architecturally beautiful with fish carvings



Kalmadam Heritage Walk by members – Nagercoil Chapter

linked to the Pandya Kingdom, it is now in poor condition, partly buried due to neglect. If restored, it could become a striking heritage landmark on the NH road connecting Kanyakumari and Tirunelveli districts.

✓ **MADURAI**

A handmade paper poster was printed on 15 March, 2025, and displayed in institutions to raise awareness of Tamil culture’s antiquity, following the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister’s announcement based on archaeological findings from Sivagalai. An excursion tour to Sivagalai, with participants from various cities, was organized. The poster was unveiled at a nearby temple, seeking blessings from God Maya Koothar. Sivagalai, a key archaeological site, gained global attention through local teacher Manikkam’s efforts. We supported his forum to protect buried artifacts and educate the community on archaeology’s significance.



Participants during World Heritage Day – Warangal Chapter

Telangana

✓ **WARANGAL**

On 5 April, a Heritage Education Tour was conducted for 40 students of Zilla Parishad High School, Orugonda village, Hanamkonda District. The visit included Chandragiri Chennakeshava Jathra’s fort walls, temples, Bhairavashilalu, water ponds, and Saptagundalu. This area was ruled by Recharla Padmanaikulu in the 15th century. A senior member of the Warangal Chapter, guided the group, explaining the Kakatiyas’ legacy in irrigation, townships, and temples.



A group photo of Heritage Education Tour – Warangal Chapter

On 18 April, World Heritage Day was celebrated at the UNESCO-listed Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple, Palampet, with dignitaries including Prof. G. Ramachandra Reddy, former Director, NIT Warangal, and Veeramalla Prakah, former Chairman, Telangana Water Resources Development Corporation. The event high-

lighted heritage conservation and concerns over a proposed 300-meter deep open-cast mining project near Ramappa Lake, which experts warned could threaten the temple and ancient tank bund, through water seepage and structural damage. Participants unanimously urged the government to halt the mining project. Speakers emphasized preserving heritage sites and the enduring significance of Kakatiya irrigation systems for local water needs.

On 24 May, the Chapter and Kakatiya Heritage Trust hosted 35 Miss World contestants from 35 countries at Ramappa Temple. Prof. M. Pandu Ranga Rao, Convenor, Chapter, and J. Sridhar Rao, Convenor, Kakatiya Heritage Trust, highlighted the Kakatiya dynasty’s architecture and heritage.



Handmade paper poster program for public awareness – Madurai Chapter



Uttar Pradesh

GORAKHPUR

On 15 April, Dainik *Hindustan* requested the Chapter to hold a heritage discussion with members and experts, including Prof. Rajvant Rao, Dean of Faculty of Arts, and Prof. Pragya Chaturvedi, Head, Ancient History Department. Key issues discussed were heritage listing, awareness, restoration, and community involvement. The Convenor highlighted that poor owner consent hampers conservation despite identifying 350+ properties. Concerns were raised about declining folk arts and changes to heritage structures from renovations.

On 19 April, a seminar on 'Heritage Under Threat from Disasters and Conflicts' was held with the Department of Ancient History, DDU Gorakhpur University. INTACH members, faculty, and students participated. Prof. Rajvant Rao, Dean of Faculty of Arts, highlighted INTACH's collaboration with DDU for conservation.

The Chapter hosted its third Mango Festival on 22 June, with INTACH Chairman, Shri Ashok Singh Thakur as Chief Guest. At the festival, the Chairman inaugurated



Shri Ashok Singh Thakur, Chairman INTACH at the Mango Festival - Gorakhpur Chapter



Third Mango Festival organized by Gorakhpur Chapter

the event and was joined by distinguished guests. He visited over 40 mango variety stalls, spoke with growers, and explored mango recipe demonstrations. He also visited the historic Gorakhnath Temple.

On 23 June, the Chairman visited Gita Press, appreciated INTACH's conservation training efforts, and offered support for digitization of manuscripts. He toured two newly protected heritage sites—Basant Sarai and Reed Saheb Dharamshala—and later visited the Ancient History Museum at DDU, where future collaboration on digital preservation was proposed.

LALITPUR

On World Heritage Day, 18 April, the Chapter organized a Heritage Conservation Seminar, Painting Competition, and Exhibition. Attendees pledged to preserve and protect heritage. The event was presided over by Chapter Convenor Santosh Kumar Sharma, with Dr. Rajkumar Jain as Chief Guest. Dignitaries included artist O.P. Birathre, Manmohan Jadiya, Vinod Tripathi, Rajkumar Rathore, Govind Vyas, Urvashi Gupta, Anuradha Modi, and Dr. Jeet Gupta. The program was conducted by Brajmohan Sangya, and the vote of thanks was delivered by Co-Convenor.

A two-day workshop on 'Tourism and Heritage Conservation in Bundelkhand' was organized jointly by the Regional Archaeology Unit, Jhansi, and the Lalitpur Chapter. It was held at KPS Degree College, inaugurated by District Panchayat President Kailash Niranjana. The workshop featured lectures by experts, including the Regional Archaeological Officer and the INTACH convenor, and highlighted the importance of preserving the region's cultural heritage. Around 200 students and



A group photo of resource persons and participants on the heritage conservation workshop - Lalitpur Chapter

teachers participated, receiving certificates during the valedictory session.

MEERUT

On 19 April, the Chapter organized a special program for senior students of The Aryans School to raise awareness about World Heritage Day and encourage a pledge to protect heritage. Conducted by Mr. A.K. Johri, Senior Assistant Sugarcane Commissioner and Co-Convenor, Chapter.

On 14 April, the Chapter held a meeting on the *Amedkar Jayanti* which was focused on water conservation, forming a committee to lead initiatives across Meerut Division. It was presided over by Dr. R.K. Bhatnagar, Retd. IAS and Chapter Convenor, with Dr. Manu Bhatnagar, Principal Director, INTACH. The program was conducted by Co-Convenor of the Chapter.

On 10 May, the Chapter observed Shaheed Kranti Diwas at Shaheed Smarak, paying tribute to 1857 martyrs. The event, led by Convenor and Co-Convenor, featured historian A.K. Gandhi's insights. An evening seminar with the Indian Genealogical Society included Dr. Kiran Singh's address and revolutionary songs.



Ambedkar Jayanti Program - Meerut Chapter



A salute to the martyrs of 1857 – Meerut Chapter



Poetic tribute to lyricist Bharat Bhushan – Meerut Chapter



A curated trail of Allahabad Law Museum & Archives – Prayagraj Chapter

On 5 June, the Chapter organized an environmental awareness program at ITI Saket to mark World Environment Day. Chaired by the Convenor, the event featured Chief Guest, Mr. Rajesh Kumar, DFO Meerut, and Special Guest, Mr. Sanjay Kumar Bhatnagar, District Environment Committee member. Conducted by the Co-Convenor, the program included talks on conservation and a pledge by students to make ITI a 'No Plastic Zone' and protect trees planted last year. Poets Dr. Gambhir and Mr. Patel recited environment-themed poems.

INTACH Meerut organized a Kavi Goshthi on 15 June at the residence of Shri Diwan Giri Ji, chaired by Dr. R.K. Bhatnagar, IAS (Retd.), and graced by Dr. Kiran Singh. Eminent poets including Omkar Gulshan, A.K. Johri, and Ashok Saxena recited their poems. Dr. Neelam Mishra 'Tarang' conducted the event.

On Bharat Bhushan's birth anniversary, INTACH Meerut held a poetic tribute at CCS University's Hindi Department Auditorium.

✓ PRAYAGRAJ (ALLAHABAD)

On 27 April, the Chapter convened to discuss the cultural and historical significance of the Maha Kumbh, with Prof. Dr. Ritu Jaiswal delivering the keynote. The meeting emphasized INTACH's role in preserving Prayagraj's heritage, with proposals supported by the Convenor and Co-Convenor.

On 14 June, the Chapter organized a curated trail of the Allahabad Law Museum & Archives, unveiling its rich collection of historical judgments, artifacts, and documents, including the 1866 Queen Victoria Charter, the handwritten Compromise Deed by Tulsidas and Mughal farmans. This heritage walk aimed to raise awareness about the unique heritage of Allahabad's High Court. During the event, three new life members were inducted by the Convenor.

✓ VARANASI

The *Virasat Darshan* program, celebrating the cultural heritage of Kashi, concluded in Varanasi with active participation from tourist guides and INTACH members. Keynote speaker, Vyomesh Shukla highlighted Varanasi's unique Holi traditions,



The Virasat Darshan program – Varanasi Chapter

including musical gharanas, Durgaghat boxing, and the *Khamsa* singing tradition. INTACH Convenor Ashok Kapoor shared that the event is held every two months with support from four major guide associations, to connect visitors with Kashi's heritage.

On 23 March, the Chapter Convenor led a heritage walk covering Dattatreya Mutt, Chitrapura Mutt, and the INTACH Cultural Centre, Peshwa Haveli in the Raja Ghat area. Starting from Bengali Tola College, participants explored the historic lanes and were briefed on the spiritual and cultural significance of each site.

On Ganga Saptami, the Varanasi Chapter organized a Ganga Aarti at Raja Ghat, led by Vedic scholar and Life Member, Pt. Shadanan Pathak, with coordination by Mr. Pradeep Pathak. The event was held at Peshwa Haveli and attended by INTACH members, tourist guides, and devotees. All costs were member-contributed, and the initiative will continue regularly to promote cultural awareness.



Heritage walk – Varanasi Chapter

On 27 April, the Chapter organized a heritage walk focused on traditional wooden toy-making, led by INTACH member, Shri Anil Keshri and supported by Chapter Convenor and Co-Convenor. The walk began at ISKCON Temple, Durgakund, and continued to Jawahar Nagar Extension, where participants were welcomed by National Awardee artisan, Shri Rameshwar Singh, owner of Balaji Handicrafts, and Shri Akhilesh Kumar, General Secretary, Tourist Guide Federation of India (TGFI). Shri Singh shared the craft's legacy, tracing its roots to ivory carvers of the royal courts.



Heritage walks to Saambhaditya Surya temple, Suraj kund, Panchameswar Mahadev and Gautameswar, and Kali temples – Varanasi Chapter



Ganga Aarti at Raja Ghat – Varanasi Chapter

On 11 May, the Chapter organized a heritage walk focused on Banaras' unique Gulabi Meenakari art in Vishweshwar Ganj. Amar Prasad Verma and his team showcased this delicate pink enamel craft on gold and silver, highlighting its Mughal origins, distinct designs, and GI tag recognition. The walk was led by Binay Rawal, Akhilesh Kumar, Jainendra Rai, and Anil Keshari, with the Convenor reaffirming support for local craftsmen.

Ganga—the event featured five priests performing the Aarti under the supervision of scholar Pt. Shadanan Pathak.

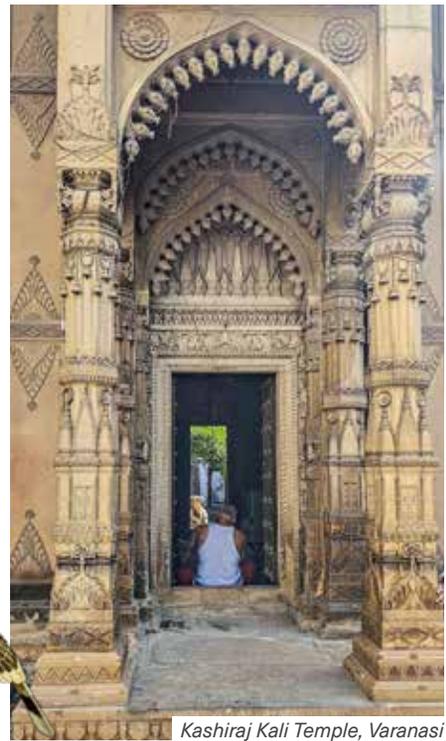
On 1 June, nineteen INTACH members, led by Convenor, Co-Convenor, and senior guides conducted a heritage walk visiting key Varanasi temples: Saambhaditya Surya Temple, Suraj Kund, Panchameswar Mahadev, Gautameswar, and a Kali temple. The group explored the 13th-century Saambhaditya Temple with its distinctive sun-shaped idol, the Nagara-style Panchameswar Temple, Gautameswar Shiva Temple, and a finely carved Kali Temple, gaining insights into their historical and architectural significance.

On 31 May, the Chapter organized a Ganga Aarti at Raja Ghat to mark the 300th birth anniversary of Rani Ahilyabai Holkar. Celebrated at INTACH Peshwa Haveli—built by the Marathas on the banks of the

On 15 June, the Chapter hosted an evening of Bhakti Sangeet featuring Marathi devotional songs and Abhangs at the INTACH Peshwa Haveli, Rajaghat. Ms. Tejeswani Vernekar from the Konkan region, performed soulful compositions by Maharashtra's saints, accompanied by Pankaj Rai (tabla) and Mohit Sahani (harmonium). Coordinated by Life member, Abhijit Agrawal and scholar artist, Dr. Ashish Jaisawal, the event was conceptualized by Convenor, Ashok Kapoor, who highlighted the INTACH Peshwa Haveli as a growing cultural hub. The program coincided with the opening of a solo watercolor exhibition by artist Shri Anil Sharma, supported by the Hina Bhatt Art Foundation, Pune.



Heritage walk on the traditional craft of wooden toy-making in Varanasi – Varanasi Chapter



Kashiraj Kali Temple, Varanasi



Heritage Walk Tour based on 'Gulabi Meenakari Art' – Varanasi Chapter

The event was inaugurated on 15 June by Padmashree, Dr. Rajeshwar Acharya and the Convenor. Renowned scholars and artists praised INTACH's role in promoting art and culture. Around 70-75 artists and students attended, also viewing



Bhakti Sangeet at INTACH Peshwa Haveli, Rajaghat – Varanasi Chapter



Solo show of water colour painting at the INTACH Peshwa Haveli Rajaghat



Celebrating the World Heritage Day – Varanasi Chapter



Celebrating International Yoga Day – Varanasi Chapter

the Dwadash Madhav exhibition on the first floor.

Little Flower House, Nagwa and the Chapter, held a yoga session on 21 June for International Yoga Day. Led by Yoga Guru, Shri Anil Keshari and the Additional Co-Convenor of the Chapter, about 25 teachers practiced pranayama, asanas, and meditation. Shri Keshari highlighted yoga's role in physical and mental well-being.

Varanasi Tourism Guild, one of the city's oldest tourism organizations, celebrated its 25th anniversary and felicitated Ashok Kapoor, Convenor, Chapter, for his contributions to heritage tourism in Banaras.



Facilitation of Convenor Shri Ashok Kapoor – Varanasi Chapter



On 29 June, the Chapter organized a heritage walk led by the Convenor and his team, visiting key historic sites including Mangla Gauri Temple, Mayukhaditya Sun Temple, restored Balaji Ghat, and the prestigious Saangved Vidyalay Vedic School. The walk concluded with a traditional breakfast at the historic Bhartendu Bhawan, honoring Bhartendu Harishchandra, the father of Hindi literature. Supported by the Co-Convenor, Anurag Chandra, this ongoing series continues to celebrate and promote Varanasi's cultural heritage.

The Heritage Club of Sunbeam School and Hostel Suncity Varanasi, an institutional member of INTACH Varanasi Chapter, was declared the 2nd best heritage club in India by INTACH Delhi.

The Chapter organized the annual Jala-abhishek ritual, where devotees bathe the Jagannath deities on the temple roof-top with fresh Ganga water—a unique event held once a year.



Presenting the Heritage Club Awards – Varanasi Chapter



Participants for heritage walk – Varanasi Chapter



Collaborative talks with Mussoorie Heritage Centre – Mussoorie Sub-Chapter



Uttarakhand

✓ MUSSOORIE

The INTACH Mussoorie Sub-Chapter, in collaboration with the Mussoorie Heritage Centre and Landour Lecture Series, organized a series of talks, highlighting the region's living cultural heritage. In April, Architect Stuti Panwar spoke on *Selku Mela*, a traditional Harsil Valley festival centered on Someshwar Devta, known for its music, dance, and community gatherings. In May, Professor Andrew Alter of Macquarie University presented on *Garhwali Dhol* traditions, ritual drumming, and village music, concluding with live folk song renditions. In June, featured author Prachi Raturi Misra discussed Uttarakhand's cuisine and folktales, interweaving recipes, readings, and performances by local women.

West Bengal

✓ HOOGLY

On 23 January, to mark Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's 128th birth anniversary, the Chapter held a district-level poster competition at Chandernagore Banga Vidyalaya, with around 30 students participating. The theme was 'Celebrating India,' showcasing local traditions and festivals. Tridip Ghosh from Uttarpara Govt. High School was named a Regional Winner.

Under a MoU with Serampore Girls' College, 70 history students completed a summer internship with INTACH Hooghly Chapter from 15 to 30 May. They documented local heritage sites and prepared reports under INTACH's guidance. The internship began with a workshop on heritage documentation, followed by fieldwork where each student selected a unique heritage site near their locality. INTACH provided continuous supervision through online meetings and one-on-one sessions.



A district level poster making competition – Hooghly Chapter



A district level poster making competition – Hooghly Chapter



Members and the Art Historian during the Mango Utsav at 'Patabahar' – Santiniketan Chapter



Regional winners – Santiniketan Chapter

✔ SANTINIKETAN

The Chapter organized a Mango Utsav at Patabahar, with renowned art historian, Ashok Das, as the Chief Guest. Members spoke on the heritage and economic significance of mangoes in West Bengal and India, while Mr. Das highlighted the fruit's history during the Mughal era. The Chapter also conducted a Poster and Write-up Contest on Intangible Heritage, awarding trophies and certificates to regional winners and top-ranking students.

Obituary

Haryana

AMBALA

The chapter mourns the passing of **Brigadier G. S. Lamba** (April 13, 1940 – April 17, 2025), former Convener of the INTACH Ambala Chapter. Commissioned into the Bengal Sappers in 1960 and a Sanawarian (1955), Brig Lamba had a distinguished military career, commanding the 236 Engineer Regiment and later the 474 Engineer Brigade. As Convener of the Ambala Chapter for over a decade, he played a key role in identifying and listing heritage sites and facilitated the conservation of the British Cemetery and St. Paul's Church, with support from Kumari Shailja, then Minister of Tourism. A gifted artist and a warm-hearted individual, he was admired by all who knew him.

Manipur

With deep sorrow, the chapter announces the passing of **Dr. Khasim Ruivah**, Member of the INTACH Manipur Chapter, who passed away on 2 April 2025 at his residence. Dr. Ruivah was a former Minister and two-times MLA from the Chingai Assembly Constituency, Manipur. His dedication to public service and heritage conservation will be fondly remembered. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones.

Uttar Pradesh

VARANASI

With deep sorrow, the Chapter announces the sad demise of **Mrs. Rubi Chowdhary** on May 28, 2025. A direct descendant of Shri Bhartendu Harishchandra, she belonged to an aristocratic family of Varanasi. Her husband and sons, Dipanker and Shubhanker Chowdhary, are INTACH Life Members. Mrs. Rubi was actively involved in women's upliftment through Mahila Mandal Kashi. We offer our heartfelt condolences to her family.

West Bengal

KOLKATA

The chapter mourns with deep sorrow the passing of **Subrata Kumar Roy** of 3 Outram Street, Kolkata, on 27 June.



Late Brig G S Lamba



Late Dr. Khasim Ruivah



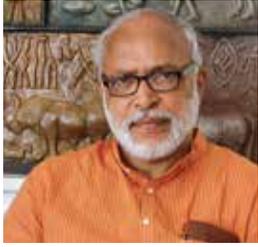
Late Ms. Ruby Chowdhary



Late Shri Subrata Kumar Roy



REMARKABLE HERITAGE



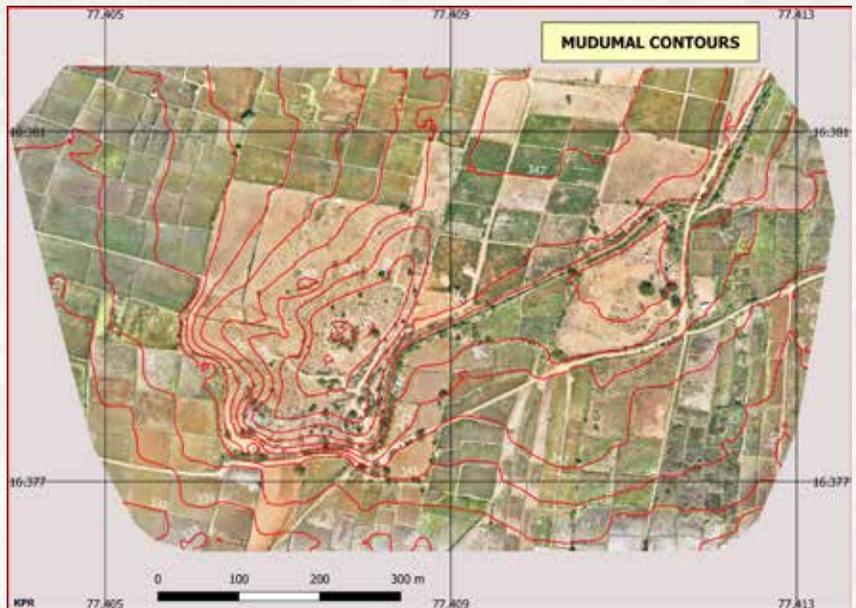
AUTHOR & IMAGES SOURCE
Er. Vedakumar Manikonda
INTACH Life Member

Ancient Site with Archaeoastronomical Features: Mudumal Megalithic Menhirs

INTACH Life Member Er. Vedakumar Manikonda, is Chairman, Deccan Heritage Academy Trust (DHAT), Hyderabad, Telangana. The Trust has undertaken the protection and research of the Mudumal Megalithic Menhirs site, beginning in 2021, in association with the Narayanpet District Administration and the Department of Heritage, Telangana. In 2023, DHAT entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Heritage Telangana for research, documentation, conservation, restoration, excavation, and preparation of the dossier for inclusion in the UNESCO Tentative List (TL).



Er. Vedakumar Manikonda explaining the alignments of the Menhir avenues to Hon'ble State Minister Sri Jupalli Krishna Rao, Sri Vakati Srihari (MLA), District Collector, IPS, officials and local residents



Mudumal site

INTACH Life Member Er. Vedakumar Manikonda checking the Menhir's alignments



Menhir's alignments



Sky Map (star chart) vie



Circular stones with alignments

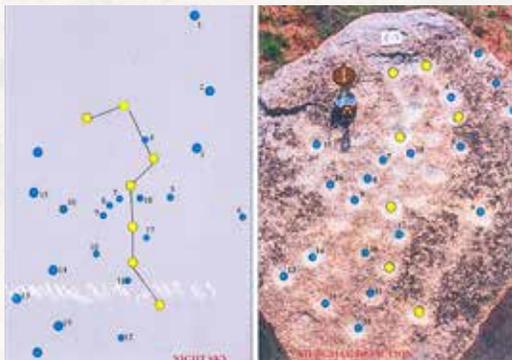


To preserve this invaluable site, DHAT initiated several conservation actions in accordance with UNESCO standards:

- Drone-Based Photogrammetric Survey
- Digital Documentation and ID System
- Mapping and Restoration Planning

Justification of Outstanding Universal Value

Mudumal uniquely combines megalithic heritage with celestial representations carved into stone. The tangible depictions of Ursa Major, Leo, and possibly planetary figures through cup marks make Mudumal the only site in South Asia with representations of the night sky. The menhirs at Mudumal represent one of India's most expansive and well-preserved megalithic astronomical observatories featuring intricate and precise arrangements of boulders, alignments, and stone circles. Over 1,000 boulders form diverse alignments across the site exhibiting remarkable mathematical accuracy and minimal anomalies. One of the most significant findings is the depiction of sky maps using cup marks on boulders. Notably, Ursa Major is represented on a vertical stone located near the highest point of the site, aligned with the sunrise during the winter solstice.



Ursa Major with peripheral stars and 'Stone Circles'

The Deccan Heritage Academy Trust prepared the dossier for the UNESCO Tentative List and submitted it to the World Heritage Section (WHS), Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Ministry of Culture, Government of India. Mudumal was officially added to India's Tentative List of UNESCO World Heritage Sites on 7 March 2025.

Ursa Major was significant in ancient times in identifying the North/Pole Star all over the world. The top two stars, 'Dubhe' and 'Merak', of the constellation point to the North /Pole Star when we draw an imaginary line through them.



Ursa major



Circular stone burials



Depiction of ancient night sky



Ursa Major Constellation with 'Cup Marks'



HERITAGE INFORMATION

Digitization of Educational Resources

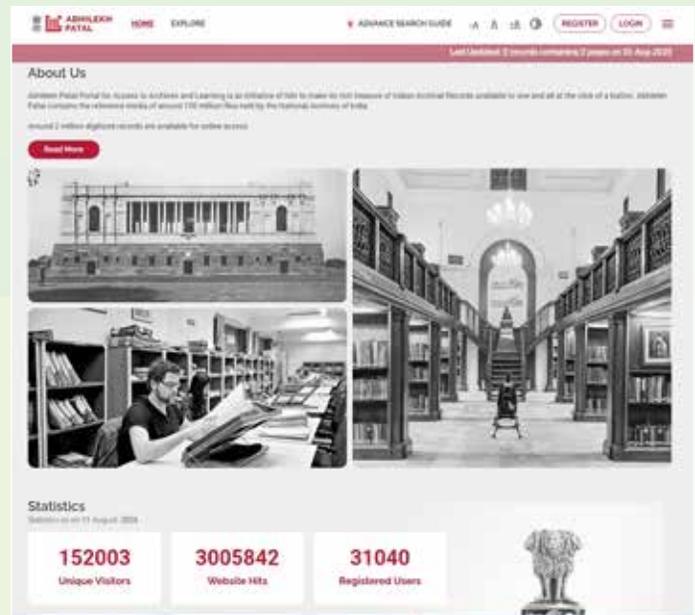
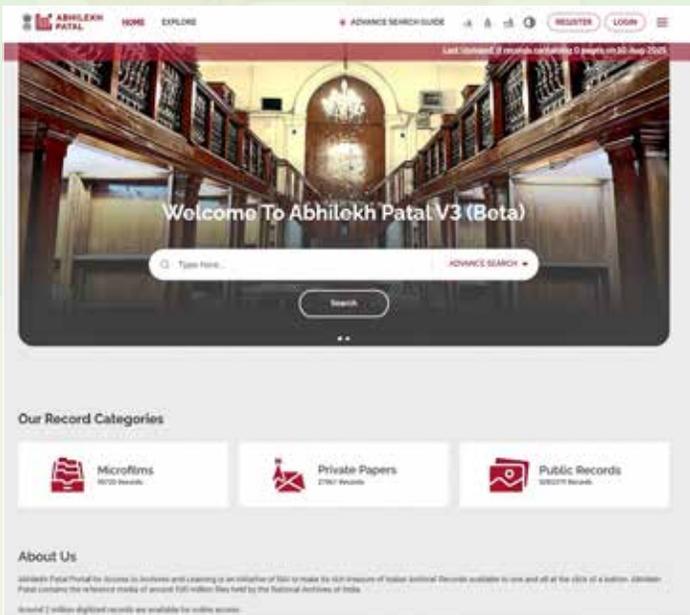


Digital archives are crucial for organizations seeking to manage, protect, and utilize their information resources effectively in today's digital age.

Preservation of information efficiently and securely offers numerous benefits over traditional physical archives and ensuring long-term preservation of valuable data. Digital archives provide enhanced accessibility, cost savings through reduced physical storage, and improved disaster recovery capabilities. It plays a vital role in ensuring compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, especially for organizations that need to retain records for specific periods.

The National Archives of India (NAI) is actively digitizing its vast collection of records, making them accessible online through the *Abhilekh Patal* portal. This portal allows users to search and access digitized records, reference materials, and other online resources related to India's historical documents. It provides access to its invaluable collection of records for researchers, scholars, and the general public.

Abhilekh Patal
<https://www.abhilekh-patal.in>



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.