



# INTACH

A Newsletter of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage



# INTACH VIRASAT

Vasant Ritu

Vol. I No. 3 Jan-March 2005

## INTACH on the Buddhist Circuit Sub-Regional Caucus of South Asia Gangtok, 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> January 2005

Six percent of the world's population is Buddhist with its temples, traditions and knowledge rooted in South and Southeast Asia. In 2000 UNESCO successfully initiated a three-year project *Cultural Survival and Revival of the Buddhist Sangha* – with funding from Government of Norway. The second phase of the program commenced with the workshop at Luang Prabang, Lao PDR in May 2004. INTACH was invited to participate and share its work experience in Sikkim, Arunachal and Ladakh. INTACH's credentials were well established, with ICCI having been a consultant to conservation laboratories of Thailand, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Nepal for over a decade.

UNESCO project to train young monks at the *Center for Laotian Traditional Temple Arts and Building Crafts*, with the objective of building traditional local capacity for conservation of Buddhist sites, proved a success. It was developed in response to an appeal by monastic and local communities who felt that traditional knowledge and skills were threatened by commercial tourist trade. The best way to stem the negative impact of voluminous global influx was by creating greater awareness of local identity and traditional heritage.

In continuation of the above two phases, INTACH and UNESCO organized the *Sub-Regional Caucus of South Asia* on 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> January at Gangtok, Sikkim. The focus



shifted to *Documentation, Education and Training to Revitalize Traditional Decorative Arts and Building Crafts in Buddhist Temples of Asia*. The objectives covered a wide parameter of attendant facets like development of site and sub-regional mechanisms for monitoring and

evaluating of projects. A number of indicators for skill development and revival of crafts and their socio-economic impact need to be developed. Simultaneously sub-regional mechanisms would be set up to report and share teaching/learning materials and results; to discuss linkages of project goals with sustainable development programs; and to develop sub-regional plans for coordinating future training and study tours.

The successful implementation of this third phase will reinvigorate traditional Buddhist practices, including ritualistic crafts like *thangka* paintings, palm leaf manuscripts, etc. It will enhance the knowledge resources within existing Buddhist institutions, so that they become repositories of their cultural traditions. It will educate both the local community and outside visitors. It will generate socio-economic opportunities for Buddhist communities, as an educated crafts revival also means poverty alleviation of local communities.



Dr. Pawan Chamling, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim with Chairman INTACH at the inauguration, after lighting the lamp



INTACH representatives took an active part in the discussions at Gangtok. They presented a plan for Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh which had been prepared in consultation with the monks from the Tawang Monastery and local representatives. In the first phase it entails documentation of the daily rituals and practices of the Monastery, and their co-relation to the creation and usage of artistic works in a Buddhist monastery. The craft of producing handmade paper from the bark of a local shrub will also be documented, with a view to reviving this ancient practice. Training modules will be designed to teach monks *preventive conservation practices*, to ensure conservation and longevity of their sacred collections. INTACH officials Anupam Sah and Janhwij Sharma were entrusted with preparing guidelines for project monitoring, using recommendations and indicators discussed by participating experts, technical resource persons and site representatives. They would be tailored to the South Asian context, and would lend themselves to evolving a 'training the teacher' curricula.

It is an opportune time for UNESCO and INTACH to activate the third phase. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has taken the initiative to strengthen tourism development in the Greater

Mekong sub-region and in the South Asian Buddhist Circuit. Thus there is greater scope for evolving a joint strategy with ADB for conserving the authentic cultural heritage resources of the region. It is this kind of innovative approach that creates culture consciousness among people, rather than development of visitor amenities. Heritage deeply rooted in local pride and identity can best withstand the pitfalls of mass-market tourism, and strikes that critical balance between marketability and sustainability.

India is the birthplace of Buddhism, and has always been a major destination for Buddhist scholars and travellers of the region. INTACH therefore has the potential to be a catalyst for revival of Buddhist circuits of South and South-East Asian region.



Dr. Pawan Chamling, Mr. Richard Englehardt of UNESCO, being introduced by Shri. S.D. Dhakal, Jt. Sec., Cultural Affairs & Heritage Dept., Govt. of Sikkim

### Trans-Himalayan Buddhist Art

Buddhist murals and sculptures in the Himalayan region of Leh- Ladakh are among the most magnificent. Buddha preached the 8-fold path of right views, intentions, speech, action, livelihood, effort, mindfulness and concentration to remove the inevitable pains of life. The *Avalokitesvara* at the *Sumtsek Temple* at Alchi is a colossal clay sculpture of a compassionate Bodhisattva. His painted *dhoti* is remarkable for the depictions of secular and religious life 1000 years ago in Kashmir.

## News from Central Office

### INTACH participates in UNESCO's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Strategy for Asia-Pacific Creative Communities

The symposium *Asia-Pacific Creative Communities : Promoting the Cultural Industries for Local Socio-Economic Development - A Strategy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, held 22<sup>nd</sup> - 26th February at Nagaur, Rajasthan was organized by INTACH at the behest of UNESCO. It was a dialogue between senior experts from 28 countries at the historic *Ahhichatragarh Fort*. Convened by UNESCO, UNIDO, WIPO, ADB and the World Bank, it appealed to all stakeholders, in the public and private sectors, to support a new cultural

vision for the Asia-Pacific region including Australia and Japan. The objective: to formulate a strategy that translated into a 10 Year Plan of Action to meet the region's development challenges. At present cultural industries are disadvantaged because of a relative absence of large scale programming of culture as a strategy to achieve over all development goals.

The Asia-Pacific is unique because it is home to many of the world's greatest and oldest cultures, largely untapped and gravely threatened by globalization. Today it is universally



A symposium *Asia-Pacific Creative Communities : Promoting the Cultural Industries for Local Socio-Economic Development - A Strategy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* convened by UNESCO, UNIDO, WIPO, ADB and World Bank organised by INTACH





acknowledged that cultural industries trigger economic growth, wealth creation and poverty alleviation. The region has the potential to become a dynamic force for promoting cultural diversity at local, national and international levels; and ensuring sustainable human development.

The *Jodhpur Consensus* emerged after four days of brainstorming by participants from across section of the world, spearheaded by UNESCO. The unanimous conclusion was that cultural industries are deeply embedded in the social and economic development goals, strategies and programs of the Asia Pacific countries; and must be recognized as enduring resources of the developing world. The creative communities of the region represent both past civilization and present cultures, and these in fact are capital assets for a whole gamut of economic activities - ranging from multi-media industry, arts and crafts, film, music, etc. They can generate goods and services with social and cultural meaning which in turn richly enhance the heritage, integrity and nobility of the human race.

The *Jodhpur Consensus* calls upon international and specialized agencies, national and local authorities, to adopt its recommendations as a basis for evidence-based policy and action. It emphasizes that an assessment should be made of direct and indirect economic social benefits of cultural industries - to serve as a base for any future strategy formulations. Instruments of data collection and analysis, such as satellite accounting systems and mapping of cultural industries are required to make all such plans knowledge-based. Their focus should be community participation, capacity recognition and building, equitable distribution of opportunities, optimum empowerment of drivers of cultural industries. In short, cultural industries must become an integral part of overall national and international development plans – including the existing frameworks of the *UN Millennium Development Goals*, *UN Development Assistance Frameworks*, *UN Common Country Assessments*, and *Country Poverty Reduction Strategy Programmes*. Above all a new balance has to be struck between strengthening both intellectual property rights and the public domain. It was noted that in the technologically advanced countries, creative cultural industries had become one of the fastest growing sectors of the economy. A similar coordinated action needs to be mobilized within the Asia Pacific countries – as a strategy for their socio-economic development.

The Symposium took an in depth look at the business of art and craft, and its potential for making a difference to the life of

#### **Cultural Industries Defined**

Cultural Industries are defined as those industries which produce tangible or intangible artistic and creative outputs, and which have a potential for wealth creation and income generation through the exploitation of cultural assets and production of knowledge-based goods and services (both traditional and contemporary). What cultural industries have in common is that they all use creativity, cultural knowledge and intellectual property to produce services and products with social and cultural meaning.

the people. It explored the critical linkage between sustainability and marketability in the developing economy of this region.

The final Plan of Action will outline the basis for all such collaborative efforts. It will elaborate on a technical assistance program to focus on the establishment of a regional, integrated development coordination mechanism. It will identify and analyse best practices; and set up a network of research and training institutes; a regional project for data collection; and an Asian Cities Creative Index.

### **Annual General Meeting**

INTACH AGM held on 19<sup>th</sup> March brought a record number of Members together for the proceedings followed by a luncheon. Chairman SK Misra called for a 2 minutes silence in memory of INTACH stalwarts - the late Shri Mulk Raj Anand, Shri Banshi Dhar and Shri JB Dadachandji.

Chairman spoke about the series of workshops and seminars conducted by Head Office, which have had a rippling effect at many levels. He also gave a brief on forthcoming meetings being held at Bastar, Hyderabad and North-East. A CD made for the National Convention was presented to update Members on the various activities undertaken by INTACH during the past year.

Results of the postal ballot for election to the Governing Council were announced as follows in the following categories :

<i>Founder Member</i>	: Shri Gautam Khanna Prof. AGK Menon
<i>Life Member</i>	: Smt. Tasneem Mehta Shri Mukesh jain
<i>Ordinary Member</i>	: Shri Ashok Kumar Sharma Shri Rajesh Bherwani
<i>Corporate Member</i>	: M/s Tourism Corporation of Gujarat.Ltd.

### **INTACH Signs 14<sup>th</sup> MOU**

Chairman SK Misra signed a MOU with Dr. PS Rana, C&MD of the government-owned Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd (HUDCO) on 9<sup>th</sup> March whereby both organizations will combine their expertise to revitalize architectural, natural, cultural and living heritage. It is a strategic partnership for joint consultancy in preparing master plans for improving heritage sites, with focus on environmental preservation and eco-tourism. HUDCO has considerable experience in financing, with its *Ahmedabad Pilot Project* undertaken specially to revitalize human settlement. INTACH's cumulative experience and documentation could be utilized by HUDCO when in future it undertakes similar projects for Central and State Governments.

The MOU enables INTACH to involve HUDCO sponsored building centers to identify cost effective building materials and technologies, for field application to heritage related conservation work, and dovetailing the infrastructure financing. Another area for future joint collaboration would be protection of built heritage in disaster prone areas, or an effective post



disaster rehabilitation.

The INTACH- HUDCO MOU constitutes an important milestone. It ensures that environmental conservation does not

take the back seat or collapse under the weight of encroachment, consumption and development - as is happening in all States across the country.

## Evenings in Celebration of Heritage

Cultural evenings at INTACH Hall during the winter months January-March, expectedly attract greater attendance. They provide a good opportunity for Members and Patrons of INTACH to get to know each other over hot tea and delicious *samosas*.

### **Sikh Heritage**

Dr. Mohinder Singh, author of several works on Sikh history and religion, gave a power point presentation on 7<sup>th</sup> January on *The Endangered Sikh Heritage* based on extensive fieldwork and lectures delivered abroad as a Fulbright Fellow. As Director of the National Institute of Punjab Studies he is associated with the cataloguing of rare relics of the Sikh Gurus taken up in 1999 in connection with the tercentenary of the Khalsa. Eight pictorial books covering rare material have been published under the *Punjab Heritage Series*.

### **Greater Angkor**

Professor Roland Fletcher, Associate Professor of Archaeology at Sydney, delivered a lecture on *The Greater Angkor Project* on 28<sup>th</sup> January. A specialist in human spatial behaviour, Prof. Fletcher has not only researched the culture, urbanism, water and landscape of Angkor, Cambodia but also the extent, duration and eclipse of this world heritage site. The specific aim of the Project with which he was closely associated was to produce a new map of the urban complex and its local region covering several thousand square kilometers, and to draw up a new chronology of the demise of Angkor as an urban area.

### **Nawabs of Awadh**

The lecture on *Nawabs of Awadh and their Times* on 8<sup>th</sup> February by Dr. Rosie Llewellyn Jones, author of some major studies on Awadh, took the audience through an exciting period of Lucknowi culture and history. Some of her well known books are *A Fatal Friendship – the Nawabs, the British and the City of Lucknow* and *Engaging Scoundrels – True Tales of Old Lucknow* which make fascinating reading. Dr. Jones was in India to research the life of Nizam of Hyderabad for a *Marg* publication.

### **Cinema Architecture**

Landscape architect David Vinnels gave a talk on 3<sup>rd</sup> March on *Cinema Architecture in India*, a hitherto unexplored subject despite the overwhelming presence of Bollywood as producer of the largest number of films. Mr. Vinnels is co-author of an in depth study *Bollywood Showplaces : Cinema Theatres in India*. As member of CTA and Theatre Historical Society of America, he led tours for specialist architecture organizations in Britain. He showed

slides of India's oldest theatres whose stately dimensions are lost to the eye amidst the urban clutter of today.

### **Visual Journey**

Shri Vikram Kalra, a graphic designer and photographer, took invitees on *A Visual Journey : Shahajahanabd* on 18<sup>th</sup> March. His talk was accompanied by a presentation of pen and ink sketches of various buildings in Old Delhi, from pre Shahajahanabad period to the British times.

### **Film Making**

Director Mani Rewal shared his *Experiences in Independent Film Making* on 28<sup>th</sup> March. His latest film *Chai Pani* is also about the experiences of a budding documentary film maker, as he makes his way through life via government officials, clerks and sanctions wading through red tape - not to mention Delhi traffic and civic sense. It is a delightful commentary on our mindset 'we are like this only' - where one has to learn to operate within a system that refuses to change! Mani Raval's talk like his recent film was very informative.

### **Patiala Heritage Festival**

Punjab Governor Gen. SF Rodrigues inaugurated the 3<sup>rd</sup> Patiala Heritage Festival held 12<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> February. It is now an eagerly awaited annual event held at *Qila Mubarak*, with a veritable feast of dance, music, *mela*, displays and crafts bazaar - under bright winter skies and star filled nights, drawing eager crowds from all walks of life.

Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh announced the allocation of Rs.2 crores for the restoration of *Qila Mubarak*, an addition to the Rs.3 crore kitty but still woefully short of the Rs.100 crore estimated cost. Chairman SK Misra said that the Nehru Centre, London would be inviting Prince Charles and other Britishers and interested NRIs for a fund raiser this summer. He hopes that a *Qila Mubarak in Jeopardy* project could be launched on the lines of *Jaisalmer in Jeopardy* that transformed the life of 500 families in Rajasthan.

Speaking on the occasion the Minister for External Affairs Shri Natwar Singh said Punjab inherited a glorious heritage wedded to artistic and cultural values that had remained suppressed for too long. Such Festivals drew the younger generations closer to their heritage and traditions. Similar annual festivals institutionalized at Kapurthala and Amritsar has turned Punjab State into a happening place on the cultural map of the country.

### Message from Sir Bernard to SK Misra

I have enjoyed reading much of INTACH Virasat and Passion Projects.....Passion Projects is a truly exciting presentation of the wide scope of INTACH's activities and beautifully presented.

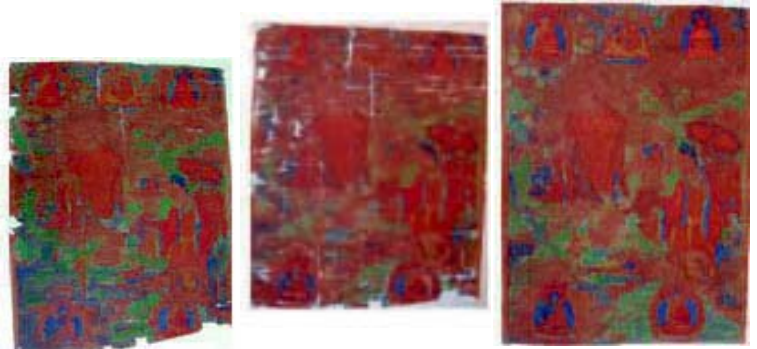
I really want to congratulate you on what you have done on INTACH Founders Day. Luckily some of the Founders are still with us but I would like specially to remember dear B.K.Thapar. It was he who chose the symbol.

## News from ICCI

Director General ICCI Dr. OP Agrawal briefed Head Office at the February Coordination Meeting about special projects carried out by ICCI Centres : a 3-day workshop organised at *Valmiki Sansthan Ayodhya*; and conservation of *Gandhiji's Legacy, Wardha*. Work on the latter will start at the Sabaramati Ashram, Ahmedabad. Dr. Agrawal is Advisor to major Jain institutions – the *Akhil Bharatiya Jain Tirath Kshetra* and *Bharat Varhaya Digamber Jain Mahasabha*. He will assist the *Committee for Conservation of Sikh Heritage* set up by Chairman INTACH.

A meeting of all Centre Directors of ICCI was held at Head Office on 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> February to discuss various organizational matters, up-gradation of skills of new recruits, and organisation of short-term refresher courses for the staff.

The Delhi Centre received a *thangkha* painting, in a poorly restored condition. It had been heavily retouched with a thick coat of varnish. The Centre carefully removed the discolouration, gave new support of an aged cotton cloth, and filled the lost areas with *putty* made of inert material. The results of the final retouching and stretching of the painting on a specially prepared drum were spectacular as can be seen in the pictures given on the right.



Before conservation

During conservation

After conservation

The second phase of ICCI's project at Dada Sibba has begun, after the cleaning and grouting work was completed. The documentation work at Hermitage, Nainital was completed last year, and restoration work will commence in April. Another major restoration work to be shortly undertaken by ICCI are the ceiling paintings in Ashoka Hall, at the *Rashtrapati Bhavan* in Delhi.

The ICCI is setting up an Art Conservation Centre in Qila Mubarak at Patiala, with the involvement of concerned experts in Punjab.

### The National Museum

The presentation of the National Museum, Delhi to the Planning Commission will result in its total makeover, long overdue. The Museum space will be enhanced and several items including paintings and instruments kept in the reserve collection will see the light of day - with free guided tours. The proposal for the National Art Treasure House is also expected to be put into operation. The National Museum Institute might be shifted to Noida to give more "respiration" to the building and added facilities to visitors.

### Rock Art in India

The *Rock Art in India* exhibition was organized by the *Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA)* from 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec-3<sup>rd</sup> January, showcasing the traditional arts and fiber replica of rock art captured by the *Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya*. The photographs on display of hunters, dancers, drummers and animals comprehensively portrayed the lives, beliefs and expressions of early man. It may be recalled that Bhimbetka, the Vindhyan range in Madhya Pradesh was declared a World Heritage Site recently. The exhibits though mainly from Madhya Pradesh, also covered the rock art from other places like Rajasthan, Gujarat, Goa, Karnataka and Orissa.

### Maps Showcase India's Cultural Heritage

Interesting art objects and crafts, mostly unknown to city dwellers, were showcased through maps of 24 States at an exhibition at *Dilli Haat*. Smt Jaya Jaitly deserves to be congratulated for these exquisitely graphic maps produced by the *Dastakar Haat Samiti*. This documentation of India's vast traditional heritage will serve as a valuable reference for designers, students and researchers. Handloom silk chess board, handwoven cotton notebook, banana fibre bags, wheat stalk *chappati* baskets, cocoonut spoons and cups, ceremonial masks – this and much more – are still an integral part of the lives of artisans who live in all parts of the country, and eke out a livelihood through their products.

### Priceless Antiquities in CBI Custody

A 5<sup>th</sup> century BC painted brick, a 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC terracotta bangle, a 9<sup>th</sup> century AD rare Varah sculpture, a 15<sup>th</sup> century corroding bronze statue are among hundreds of priceless antiques and manuscripts languishing at CBI headquarters. Seized in raids from traffickers and smugglers, antiques worth crores of rupees are housed in a godown, and cannot be handed over to ASI till the cases are disposed. Can someone in authority find a way to keep them in safer custody at the National Museum, for instance?







## Pragpur



Durga Devi owned a three hundred years old house at Pragpur, which she donated for conversion into a Crafts Museum when Pragpur was declared a Heritage Village.

AHD started work on the museum in February, with specialised masons from Punjab who know how to work with lime on conservation oriented projects. The house had to be made sound, as it had a lot of cracks and structural failures. The work also entails providing for aretfacts and a good lighting system.

Since Pragpur has a lot of rains, work started by opening the most damaged floor from inside of the second floor which rested on three beams, topped with 4" of compact mud over a layer of leaves. More than 65% of the wooden planks on top of

the wooden beams were totally damaged by termites and water seepage, while 30% had cracks and holes thus leaving very little that could be reused.

### *Masonic Grandeur*

The majestic Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus at Mumbai has found a place on the World Heritage List. According to the book *Indian Railways Architectural Heritage* by historian KK Khullar, of the nearly 7000 railway stations in the country, there are at least 40 which qualify for heritage building status because of their exquisite architecture. He mentions stations like Howrah, Sealdah, Chennai, Lucknow and even smaller stations like Churchgate, Byculla, Egmore, Solan, Shimla and Darjeeling among others that qualify. It is true that some Indians in the colonial days viewed Railways as the "devil's workshop". Mahatma Gandhi however saw in it a great integrating role - even though some stations were described as a "sparrow's nest" or "cow's shed" because they were so small!

### *Green Architecture*

*Green Architecture* is an ecological concept that stresses coexistence of architecture and the environment, thereby saving around 25% of energy consumption, explains noted architect Abhymanyu Dalal. Most designers think the use of more glass translates into more natural light. On the contrary it leads to glare on computer screens and defeats the whole purpose. An innovative way is to use 'light shelves'. Architecture is at the crossroads today with focus on ambience of workplace or home that promotes social interaction - with better light, air, sound quality and ergonomics.



AHD decided to replace the whole floor and to reuse whatever wood that could be saved from planks and beams to repair doors and windows. All the doors and windows were marked on site and recorded before removing rotten windows and doorframes. All the waste wood was kept separate and appropriate sizes of doors and window frames were cut out from the undamaged wood. As the beams used in the building were huge and of different sizes unavailable in Pragpur, it was ordered from Punjab. The outside walls are also being repaired. After anti termite treatment of walls, the grouting with lime and sand in the ratio 1:1 was done. Steel reinforcements were first painted and then inserted after every ten inches. All the points and wiring direction was marked on the walls for the electricians by taking care of all the niches and carvings.

*Sacred Sites International Foundation* (SSIF) announced their commitment to support the Mangyu Monastery and include it in their 2005 Most Endangered Sacred Sites list. Shri Janhwij Sharma of the Architectural Division was congratulated for his commendable efforts towards the protection of this spiritual patrimony. A special section has been added to the SSIF website giving detailed information of each site on their list, including articles and internet links to bring global awareness of the most treasured sacred places which need to be preserved for all times.

### *Ancient Sumaithangi*

In olden days, *Sumaithangis* (stone structures) dotted the roadside at regular intervals, and served as a resting place for loadsmen to rest the heavy goods carried on their head while traversing long distances. They were funded by rich families, mostly in memory of their womenfolk who had died during childbirth. They as well as the *vazhi ambalams* (roadside inns in South India) have disappeared during road widening over the years, and some have become part of temples.

### *Tsunami Throws Up a City*

A lost city has emerged from the waters! Archeologists are excited over a line of rocks uncovered by the *tsunami* 500 metres from the Shore Temple at Mahabalipuram, 48 miles from Chennai. A six foot rocky structure with elaborate carvings of animals in repose or flight came into view amidst the battered seaside - now waiting to have its origins unravelled. Could it have some link to the legend of the Seven Pagodas? Only further excavations by archaeologists and naval sonar system will tell. The ASI ventures it might belong to a port city of the Pallava period in 7<sup>th</sup>— 8<sup>th</sup> century or part of the legendary seven pagodas. A naval diving team also discovered a temple shaped structure under the sea, and have recovered prominent objects of archaeological importance, and something that looks like a sanctum sanctorum covered in marine growth.





## Modern Techniques for Watershed Management of Rural/Urban Areas

The Natural Heritage Division has been involved in the use of GPS (Geographical Positioning System) and GIS (Geographical Information System) technologies for the watershed management of Biharia Village, Allahabad.

Although located in the vicinity of the Yamuna River, the water table has considerably depleted because of over extraction. The soil is rich in minerals including silica. In the absence of adequate irrigation sources the mining has become the main source of employment in and around the area, which has led to permanent erosion of the fertile topsoil strata.

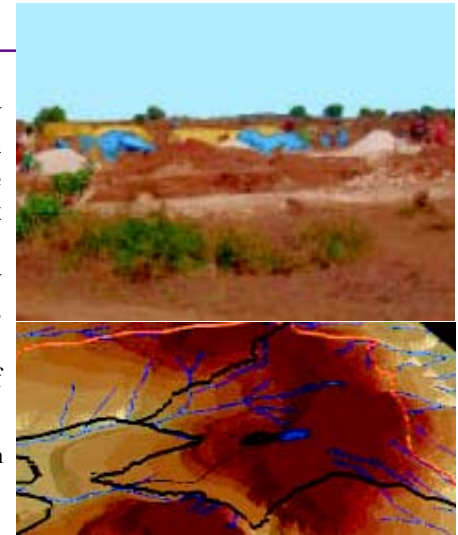
The GPS technology for mapping an area is based on positioning with respect to the satellite and is particularly suited for open areas, fields, forest where the conventional mapping techniques are not economically viable. The GPS instrument can be selected based on the kind of requirement i.e. watershed management, micro planning, infrastructure mapping, etc, which require varying degrees of accuracy ranging from 20 m to a few cm. For the water shed management a hand held GPS instrument with accuracy of 2-3m is used.

The GIS technology or the Geographical Information System is a tool for storing, analyzing and retrieval of land related data. The information gathered from the GPS and RRA (Rapid Rural

Appraisal) with community involvement is processed in GIS for deciding the watershed management scheme of the area.

The technique is highly suitable for rural areas because of cost considerations and accuracy of the output.

*Above right: Mining Works in Progress, Biharia, Allahabad*  
*Right: 3-D Terrain Model of Biharia*



### The Greenhouse Effect

Scientists state that the December *tsunami* that claimed more than 100,000 lives, grass sprouting in the Antarctica and one day snowfall near Dubai are all warning signals of global warming which is caused by the greenhouse effect. Already there are many signs we should notice. The year 2004 was the fourth hottest year since 1861. Himalayan glaciers are retreating at record pace. Scientists estimate that the sea level will rise by an additional 19 inches by 2100. Land is being lost in Andamans, Seychelles, Mauritius, Somalia, Madagascar, Maldives, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Malaysia. If sea level rises by 2 m half of Bangladesh will be submerged. Rising seas have flooded 18,500 acres of Sunderbans mangrove in the last 30 years. According to NASA the polar ice cap is melting at an alarming rate of 9% per decade. Recent studies have revealed that already 279 species of plants and animals are responding to global warming. How does Man react to all this?

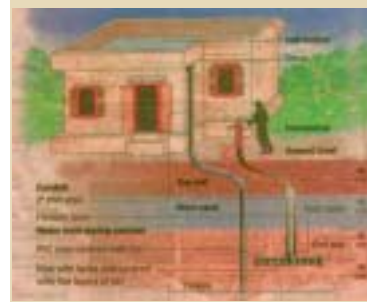
### 10 Drivers for Sustainable Development

JG Speth, currently Dean at the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies at Yale University, describes "*ten drivers of global environmental deterioration*": population growth; affluence of some; poverty of many; environmentally unfriendly technology; market failure to price goods like air, water and land; policy and political failure to correct such price distortions; scale and rate of economic growth; consumerist culture and values; and lastly globalisation. According to him global population increase per se is not so much a serious problem as its growth in urban centers arising out of migration from the countryside. Affluence in the developed world is marked by environmentally unsustainable consumption encouraged by "perverse" subsidies in agriculture, energy, water, fisheries, etc. "*In addressing poverty, development projects have often failed because they neglected environment, just as environmental projects have failed because they neglected development*". The roadmap to environmentally sustainable development is marked by "eight transitions": empowering women; halving the number of world's poor; gradual increase in share of renewable sources of energy and demand regulated through price mechanism; setting environmentally honest prices that reflect value of Earth's supporting systems; reorienting consumers' choice towards green products and services; corporate accountability; spread of environmental literacy and awareness at all levels of citizenry; and effective green governance.

### Catch As It Falls

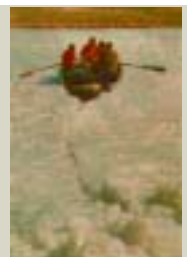
Rainwater is transported through pipes or drains, filtered and stored in tanks for reuse or recharge

**National Priority : India, with one-seventh of the world's population, needs to address rainwater harvesting on a war footing.**



### Snow-Bound Lake?

It is only the Yamuna in Delhi foaming with effluents and industrial wastes! Pollution in the river reaches new levels with each passing day as 3,296 million litres per day (MLD) of wastewater from the capital and nearby areas flow from 19 drains into the river, according to a government authorized report.



### A Film to be Seen

A 48-minute film *Harvest of Rain*, dedicated to India's traditional water harvesting systems, was screened on 5<sup>th</sup> March by World Wide Fund for Nature-India. The camera wandered through Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu recording the profound science of the people, looking at a wide variety of traditional water management systems used in different ecological terrains. It conveyed a simple message: that we forget our age-old wisdom and chase hydraulic nightmares, and big dams dislocating traditional habitat. A special screening of such films should be held for legislators and administrators.







### INTACH-Indian Express Heritage Awareness Campaign

Children from across the country sent essays for the INTACH-Indian Express Heritage Awareness contest.

Their observations were interesting, proving beyond doubt that children are not unaware of the importance of their environment. As one of them put it succinctly: *“Some people think that preservation of heritage has no benefits. That is not correct. It’s a reflection of the identity of the people and the nation”* gently indicting “some people” who neglect heritage. *“Five children from different religious backgrounds meet in a playground, talk about festivals, food, holy places, and share experiences – as only children can.”* *“A 3000-years old Baobab tree is cut down in its “youth”. The deed fails to shock.”* There was an underlying plea in every essay – out of the mouth of babes, as they say.

The first prize in Hindi essay went to Lakki Sharma of KV Faridkot; while Nandan Gokhale of Symbiosis Secondary School, Pune got the prize for the English essay, among many others prizes that were given to participants.

#### Welcome Game

A stimulating game about energy and water, similar to Ludo, has been developed by Welcomenviro Initiatives, ITC. What a bright idea to sensitise families about the methods of conserving natural resources, while having fun with dice and coins!



#### Heritage Education on the Borders

School students are instinctively resistant to anything that adds a ‘burden’ to their school bag and the curriculum. Teachers who come to Heritage Education Workshops are often bullied into it by their Principals.’ Heritage Education is a two way process – the professed trainer learns about the heritage of a region from his trainees, who in turn learn to see it in a new perspective. In Aizwal there were two dozen teachers with impassive faces, speaking hesitantly in low tones while the charming Secretary of the Chapter tried to draw them into the discussions. It was only on the second day that it was explained that among Mizos it is a mark of good breeding to talk softly. Soon they responded with novel ideas on how to make children recognize a much loved folktale or a lullaby as heritage. The map of India with lovely paintings of World Heritage Sites made them despondent, till it was explained that “heritage” did not mean only monuments – their song and dance forms, medical wisdom, folk tales, spectacular beauty of their land were all part of heritage. The lesson : heritage education needs to address issues of violence, politics and marginalized groups in a realistic manner.

The experience at Jodhpur was quite different. If the Mizos were just emerging from the long shadow of 20 years of military rule during which they had hung up their guitars, the teachers at Jodhpur glowed with confidence and spoke proudly of Rajput valour and patriotism. At Jamnagar the Convenor was able to fire the participants with such enthusiasm that the workshop ended with a spirited group dance presented as a “heritage” item.

How often do our textbooks remind us of “ our glorious past”. This can create stereotypes, make people complacent or uncritical, or marginalized. A well designed Heritage Education Workshop should play a vital role in sensitizing children to the environmental concerns, and the major role of women in shaping our heritage.

*Dr. Narayani Gupta, Consultant, HECS*



### Progress in Delhi

Last year the MCD introduced the Unit Area Method (UAM) and demolition of unauthorized colonies with public support of Residents’ Welfare Associations (RWA), and thereby earned better revenue by way of property taxes. The MCD has now adopted a new motto for the year 2005 : *My Progressive Delhi* in terms of public-private partnership, introduction of new building byelaws, etc. An advertising blitz is proposed in collaboration with INTACH, ASI, DDA, NDMC and other heritage groups according to the statement issued by MCD Commissioner Shri Rakesh Mehta. The Delhi Government has been requested to amend the *Delhi Plastic Act*, and usage of bio-degradable bags will be made compulsory.

The Delhi High Court has asked the ASI to file a detailed

report about 180 protected monuments in the capital, along with steps taken to preserve them. This is as a result of a 3-year old PIL filed by the Heritage and Culture Forum. Similar public demand for greater transparency will bring all State Departments of Archaeology under greater obligation to preserve “protected monuments” under ASI jurisdiction.

INTACH submitted a list of 26 heritage zones to the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) for drafting the *Delhi Master Plan 2021*. Conservation architect AGK Menon clarified that besides the 6 “heritage zones” (Central Vista that is Lutyens Bungalow Zone, Civil Lines adjoining the Ridge, Shahjahanbad, Sultangarhi, Mehrauli, and Nizamuddin area including the Humayun Tomb), a new concept of “archaeological parks” will be introduced in the Master Plan. These comprise essentially open spaces like the Mehrauli and Sultangarhi areas having





historical ruins, monuments, *havelis*, temple complexes or architectural remains of importance. The cohesiveness of both monumental heritage and the people's lifestyle would be taken into account before any indiscriminate development is permitted in these areas. He felt another valuable heritage area that is slowly being obliterated is traditional urbanscape.

### **Pitch for Kolkata Maidan**

Kolkata has less than 1% open space, with at least 23 wards of the city without any green lung. The Army is the original custodian of the Brigade Parade Ground. Environment activist and petitioner Subhash Dutta, entrusted by the green bench to submit a development plan for the Ground, has now stressed

that the Army should be issued strict guidelines regarding the usage of the Maidan.

### **Vision Plan for Mumbai**

INTACH was originally invited by the Urban Heritage Committee to draw up a plan for managing South Mumbai's Fort Precinct. Another plan was submitted by a non-government organisation Urban Design Research Institute headed by Charles Correa. Both submissions are now being officially studied – and hopefully there will be no conflict of interest for the greater glory of Mumbai. As one conservation architect remarked : *If the Gateway stood at Bhayander, would anyone bother?*

## News from Chapters

### **AGRA**

INTACH team completed a site survey, the data is now being computerized. Listing work is also in progress.

#### **Leaning Minarets of the Taj?**

The Survey of India is checking four minarets of the Taj Mahal for a possible tilt reported sometime ago. The ASI, IIT-Roorkee and the Central Building Research Institute are examining the strength of the monument's foundation. The School for Planning and Architecture has been asked to draft a common master plan for the three World Heritage Sites in Agra – Taj, Agra Fort and Fatehpur Sikri as suggested in a report submitted by UNESCO and ICOMOS.

### **ANDAMAN & NICOBAR**

**Convenor Samir Acharaya reports that INTACH representative was on the first relief ship to reach after the tsunami struck Nicobar. For 24 hours thereafter, the Rapid Assessment Team cameras and videos documented the devastation of seabed and coral reefs. The underwater footage, funded by the Foundation of Ecological Security, has since been received at the Head Office.**

The Chapter set up an information center to facilitate the work of many NGOs like OXFAM, MSF, media and even relief operators of the administration. Volunteers from SANE were at the forefront of many operations. Advocacy efforts for the victims, particularly for tribals, was undertaken with the full support of Home Secretary Dr. Sayeeda Hameed. Ms. Ayesha Majid, Chairperson of the Tribal Council requested the Lt. Governor to allow INTACH to take up the rehabilitation and eco-restoration of the Nowcowry group of islands. The team of volunteers was led by Dr. Simon Jit Singh, who was earlier associated with an INTACH sponsored study of Central Nicobar. It was found that relief operations were not sufficiently oriented in favour of tribals, so efforts were redoubled to establish a direct channel of communication with senior officials in the local administration and Planning Commission, and directly with the Nicobarese tribes. Three major priorities were identified

as rebuilding of *horis*, the traditional Nicobarese canoes for restoring lost livelihood; rebuilding ethnic houses as per local requirement, in which SANE was aided by a local architect Sanjay Mukherjee; and regeneration of plantations and livestock. It is in times of crisis people and organizations find a permanent place in the hearts of a whole community. INTACH Head Office is proud of the responsibilities assumed by the Andaman & Nicobar Chapter.

### **AURANGABAD**

Convenor Mukund Bhogale states the workshop organized on 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> March, with the assistance of Janhwij Sharma of the AHD, entailing field work for listing was much appreciated. With new found confidence, the Chapter submitted a proposal for restoration and conservation of a vacant palace *Kille Aar*, once used by Aurangzeb. Its reuse envisages locating INTACH Office, Library, Training Hall, Crafts Centre, *Haat*, Food Mall and an Amphi Theatre.

### **BIJAPUR**

Convenor Dr. KH Kulkarni invited Shri TN Chaturvedi, Governor of Karnataka to be a patron of the Chapter. He has drawn his attention to some of the heritage properties located within the two km parameter of the *Arakilla* (citadel) that the Governor was unable to see on his last visit to the city. While these monuments are listed as 'protected monuments', they presently house government offices and have undergone unauthorized alterations.

Deputy Commissioner Bijapur, Shri Mohammad Mohasin inaugurated the seminar *Preservation & Conservation of Bijapur* to create greater awareness, and discuss policies and



Sri Mohamad Mohasin Dy. Commissioner inaugurates the Seminar on 'Preservation and Conservation of Bijapur Heritage on 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2005

programmes for heritage conservation on 5<sup>th</sup> March. Experts invited for the discussions will help to delineate an action plan to be submitted for approval of the Karnataka Government. Shri Kulkarni indicated that efforts were being made to include the unique *Gol Gumbuz* in the list of World Heritage Sites.

## CHANDIGARH



On the Heritage trail.....Chandigarh

There is a new fervour in the Chapter with Convenor VK Kapoor determined to make a positive impact. He says “Chandigarh has a *Khajuraho at its doorstep, and it does not know it*”. The Heritage Walk organized on 15<sup>th</sup> January covering the less travelled route from Bhima Devi Temple to Pinjore Gardens was joined by many enthusiasts, including Haryana Chief Secretary and his wife Smt. Sunil Ahuja. Pinjore finds mention in the memoirs of

A. Beruni (1030 AD) and became a cultural and spiritual hub in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Students of the Government College of Arts on this heritage trail drew various sketches and figurines.

Co-Convenor Vivek Atray informs that the seminar *Design & Conservation of Tapestries of Le Corbusier* held on 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> March in collaboration with Alliance Francaise at the Government Museum, Chandigarh was a great success. About 30 tapestries of Corbusier produced in the 1950-60s, with a story to tell in each tapestry, were installed inside the High Court and Legislative Assembly of Punjab. The capital has also been enriched by his wealth of architecture.

## CHATTISGARH

Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh was the Chief Guest at the *Somnath Sangam* on 16<sup>th</sup> January at the confluence of Kharun and Shivnath rivers along which lie 200 villages. Convenor Lalit Surjan welcomed many other special invitees like the Minister for Culture Shri Brijmohan Agrawal and Sahitya Academy award winner Shri Vinod Kumar Shukla, MPs Shri Ramesh Bais and



Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh, inaugurates notice-board advising tourists to maintain the serenity of the place.

Smt Karuna Shukla, MLA Shri Devji Patel. A significant number of NCC cadets, school children and nearby villagers participated in the cleaning up of river banks. On hand were writers, musicians and cultural activists. This event promises to become a popular annual happening .

At Raipur a *Nagar Darshan* programme was organised on 28<sup>th</sup> January when students of Mayaram Surjan Government High School were taken around the historic places of the city to teach young people how to appreciate the finer aspects of their heritage. A Heritage Tour followed on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> February for Members, with the added pleasure of a coffee break under a banyan tree and lunch at a farm house.



Above: Members of Raipur Chapter at Deuli Temple



Dr. Narayani Gupta, HECS conducted the Teachers Training Workshop, Raipur



Left & above: School children, NCC cadets, nearby villagers participated in the cleaning up of river banks

## COIMBATORE

In celebration of Founder's Day, skit and music competitions were conducted for Heritage Club members on 16<sup>th</sup> February at the Rotary Hall, Devanga Higher Secondary School with ten schools participating enthusiastically. The judges had a tough time selecting prize winners from themes like living in tune with nature, restoration of man-made heritage, preservation of ancient traditions, water conservation, etc. all presented with great originality and artistic skill. What a wonderful way of fostering concern among the future guardians of our heritage!



L to R :Ms. Kumudini, Principal Bhartiya Vidhya Bhawan, Ms. Jayashree Rani, Chief Guest, Foundation Day; Mr. V. Rajkumar, Co-Convenor; Mr. S. Guru Murthy, Advisor INTACH & Ms. Kalaivani Chengappa, Co-Convenor & Heritage Clubs Project Co-ordinator





INTACH workshop for Teachers – Heritage Club in Schools, Coimbatore



Above: Chandigarh Heritage Awareness at Nek-Chand Rock Garden for school children on 19<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2004. Shashi Ghulati gives a orientation course



Below: III<sup>rd</sup> Prize winner 'Villipatter' presented by Amrita Vidyals' Nallampalayan Heritage Club. Foundation Day celebrations on Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> 2005

Above: I<sup>st</sup> prize winner Bharti Vidya Bhawan Heritage Club. Air Noise Pollution- effects & solutions suggested. Heritage Club I<sup>st</sup> Annv. celebrations on Feb 16<sup>th</sup> 2005



## DARJEELING

Plans are afoot for an advocacy drive in the coming quarter, and there are 'great expectations' from this historic hill station.

## DEHRA DUN

Convenor Lokesh Ohri invited the Governor of Uttaranchal, Shri Sudarshan Agarwal to release the *Heritage Map of Sites of Doon Valley* on 8<sup>th</sup> March. A seminar on the subject with focus on



Mr. Lokesh Ohri, Convenor, Dehra Dun making a presentation

*Reuse & Conservation Strategies* was also organized on the occasion at St. Thomas Church, itself a heritage building in need of conservation. Shri Ohri's presentation was followed by that of Shri YK Kanotra, Superintending Archaeological Chemist, ASI who is conducting restoration on the murals of the Garhwal School of Painting at Guru Ram Rai Durbar in Dehra Dun. As the Governor stated : "Preservation of heritage has become even more significant for a State like Uttaranchal that is trying to find its own niche in the tourism market"

## DELHI

News of NDMC and PWD plans for installing concrete benches

on India Gate lawns, concrete bridges over water channels as part of a "makeover plan" has sent a chill down 'conservative' spines. The area is listed as one of 100 most endangered sites by the World Monument Watch. It took 15,00 drawings over a period of 20 years for Lutyens to conceptualise the plans. And it would take only one stroke for the NDMC and PWD to violate a designated conservation area in Master Plan 2000. Convenor OP Jain declared : "The civic bodies are totally insensitive. They can play havoc with the Central Axis... such a proposal must not even be discussed". INTACH plans to file a PIL to fight deep rooted vested interests - if required.

The MCD on the other hand is ready to offer various benefits, including tax rebates, for heritage buildings in the capital. The occupants are sometimes not in a position to avail this as impoverished families are living here, some for over 70 years.

### Iron Pillar of Delhi

The iron pillar at Qutab Minar has withstood corrosion for 1600 years. It now attracts the interest of not merely tourists, but scientists from all over the world who want to study ancient metallurgical excellence of India. The ASI has agreed to allow follow up on the 1961 research on the microstructure of this 'rustless wonder' of Delhi. There is also a comprehensive book on the pillar by IIT Prof. Balasubramaniam. The proposed studies will make comparisons by testing other ancient iron objects like the pillar at Dhar, the iron beams at Konarak, etc. Dr. Baldev Raj, Director of the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research is a member of the panel of architects and scientists who have recommended the present research using non-intrusive technique.

### Authority without Sensitivity

A glaring example of authority without sensitivity comes to the attention of INTACH in the heart of Delhi! During the last monsoons the *Hindu Rao Hospital* was partly submerged and patients were shifted because no changes are allowed on this 170 year old heritage building. Yet a few months later, no permission was sought from the MCD Heritage Committee before making significant alterations to accommodate a bank extension counter! An entire red *jaali* wall and three arches were broken down. Conservation architect Ratish Nanda points out that it is among the top 10% heritage sites of the city because little else of that period survives; and it is within 100 metres of an ASI protected hunting lodge behind the hospital. What is to be done when the authorities themselves disregard laws made by the Government?

Other unauthorized constructions are reported at the 300-year old *Chunna Mal Havelli* in Chandni Chowk, once visited by Emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar, poet Mirza Ghalib, Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Nehru. Most of the buildings original glass chandeliers, La Fontana paintings, wooden doors and carpets have long gone... the rest too will soon go!





At 104 Gali Krishna there is a private residence upstairs and many shops below the Zeenat Mahal, where once lived the favourite queen of Emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar. Begum Sumroo ki Haveli better known as Bhagirath Palace, has hundreds of electrical and medical stores. The landlord of 509 Haveli Haider Quli is not even interested in collecting rent from his tenants. Chausath Khamba, once a masjid is overcrowded with plastic tanks. Till recently a girls' hostel set up by Begum Abida Ahmed functioned from Balika Chaman, what next is the question? There are 800 such historic structures listed by INTACH, but very few tenants who can avail of benefits held out by MCD.

Convenor OP Jain selected 25 people for training in conducting heritage walks through Shahjahanbad and Mehrauli. He says "We want these people to be watchdogs of heritage in their areas, not only of built heritage, but also of environment....we have all this heritage that our ancestors left us, which would cost trillions of dollars to build. It is young people like these who are the future of this heritage and we want to make it a people's movement. Only through awareness can the change happen". It has been reported that Chandni Chowk would be converted into a cultural hub by a mix of the old world of Shahajahanbad with a modern mix of sidewalks and battery operated mini-buses. Rickshaws will continue to ply as in the good old days during fixed hours.

## GUJARAT

A high-powered meeting was convened at the initiative of Chief Minister in March at Ahmedabad, attended by all concerned senior officials of the Gujarat Government. State Convenor Karan Grover stressed the need for a Gujarat Heritage Commission, and implementing Heritage Cells and Regulations. INTACH listing will be presented at the next meeting, on the basis of which a fresh listing will be undertaken in Gujarat.

The Chapter has suggested a Gujarat Heritage Commission to be set up, for the specific purpose of implementing and monitoring of heritage regulations.

## GURGAON

Over a 100 golfers participated in the tournament organized at the Classic Golf Course on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> February. Chapter Patron Nawab MAK Pataudi presided over the event and the prize distribution. This popular event raised generous funds for the Taoru Project. The Chapter identified 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> centuries tomb complex at Taoru belonging to the Lodhi, Tughlak and

Mughal dynasties, of great historical and architectural importance to the Gurgaon region, for its conservation work.

Dr. V Mukherjee  
Gold Tournament at  
the Classic Golf  
Course



## GWALIOR

Dr.HB Maheshwar 'Jaisal' has forwarded the first listing of Gwalior Heritage. More than 450 buildings have been recorded to date, and over a 100 rural places are yet to be listed.

## HAZARIBAGH

Convenor Bulu Imam reports that Hazaribagh & North Karanpura Valley have been put top most on the list of Most Endangered Sacred Sites of the International Foundation (SSIF), Berkeley, USA . It is also listed among the most threatened environments in *Undermining India : Impacts of Mining on Ecologically Sensitive Areas, Kalpavriksha, Pune 2005*. It has the distinction of being placed on the *Important Bird Areas of India : Priority Sites for Conservation*, published by the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), *International Bird Conservation Network (IBCN)*, *Bird International (BI)*, *Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)*, UK, 2004. The report on the rock art of the region, as well as the living cultural traditions and art and cultural landscapes has appeared in the *World Report on Heritage at Risk*, ICOMOS regularly through 2002-2005. International delegates, attending the 6<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Bengal Art at Ranchi took time off to view Oraon tribal art houses at Sanskriti, in Hazaribagh. This living art has traveled far and wide in Europe, America and Australia.

Shri Bulu Imam has been appointed as the official Ombudsman for the rock art of Hazaribagh. As a result of his efforts to secure UNDP funds for the Tourism Department, ISCO Rock Art Site is now connected with a good road and a two room guest house. Shri Bulu Imam however fears that the proposed construction of two dams and the super power thermal project on the Damodar River and its tributaries in Jharkhand, new railway and road network in addition to the



Republic Day tableau, Ranchi

## Ancient Megaliths

Primitive megaliths, unlike common belief they were sepulchral stones, served as the first man made observatories. Jharkhand is dotted with megaliths, with tribes continuing their megalithic burial practice or raising the village totem – a living tradition to be honoured and protected. Megaliths are also found elsewhere in India, from Kashmir to Kerala with a preponderance in South India. In Europe, Japan and Korea they have become major tourist attractions, while we are barely aware of their existence.



industrialization, will annihilate the ecological and cultural record evolved over many millennia in symbiosis with the natural environment.

The Chapter participated in the Republic Day celebrations 2005 at Ranchi with a tableau depicting varied Adivasi artistic traditions (7000-3500 BC) of North Jharkhand.

#### **Linked to Indus Valley Civilization?**

The North Karanpura is an ancient rift valley with a pebbled shoreline, with many streams and rivers flowing into this Upper Damodar basin, and rock art sites strewn along its 40 kms length and 20kms breadth. Jharkhand is a good source of tin and copper used since Mohenjadaro times, and now its bane because of large scale mining. The architecture and village plans of Hazaribagh and Chatra districts display a distinct similarity with those of the Indus civilization. Villagers are still living in a Chalcolithic culture using grinding mortars, bathing platforms, wheel-turned pottery and bell metal utensils. Part of the economy runs on barter system. Should we let this last bastion of the Bronze Age be 'dam-ed' and disappear?

### **HYDERABAD**

On the recommendation of State Convenor Shrawan Kumar, orders have been issued that Collectors will henceforth be Chapter Patrons, with both Officials and Non-Officials functioning as Convenors of District Chapters.

#### **Chowmahalla Palace**

After five years of painstaking restoration undertaken by INTACH experts and Mumbai based consultant Rajiv Mehrotra at the initiative of Prince Mukarram Jah Bahadu, the *Khilawat Mubarak* at Chowmahalla Palace in Hyderabad is being thrown open for public viewing. Shri Martand Singh of INTACH UK Trust, who played a pivotal role in the implementation of this project, says this restoration work was unprecedented in scale and depth. The Textiles of Nizam exhibition above this *darbar* hall has royal wardrobes on display.

### **JABALPUR**

INTACH Associate Life Member Dr. Prof. LC Jain, has published 3 Volumes of *Exact Science in the Karma Antiquity*. Co-Authoring by Chief Editor of *Rishabh Bharti*, Prabha Jain these volumes contain information about the three universes: the mathematical contents of the *Tiloyapannatti*, *Trilokasara* and *Lokavibhaga*. The authors have a vast knowledge of *Jaina* source, and Sanskrit and Prakriti texts. INTACH thanks them for this precious gift sent in memory of the late Smt Laxmi Chandra Jain.

### **JAIPUR**

The Chapter welcomes a new Convenor Salahuddin Ahmed, with Smt. Dharmendar Kanwar continuing as its Co-Convenor. He is a senior IAS Officer and a long time active Member of INTACH.

#### **Pink City Celebrations**

A three-day international conference on tourism marked the 227<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the royal city of Jaipur. The Jaipur Virasat Foundation organized a walk past temples, *chauparas* and *havelis* that crisscross

the myriad lanes of the city, humming with the sights and sounds of its many craftsmen. Among the walkers of the walled city were Maharaja Gaj Singh of Mewar and Minister TA Mufamadi of South Africa.

The corporate sector is lending a hand to preserve the historical monuments of Jaipur. The Unit Trust of India will adopt the *Hawa Mahal*; while the State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur are interested in the upkeep of *Amber Palace*.

#### **Wetlands of Bharatpur**

The crisis at Keoladeo Sanctuary, Bharatpur is a classic case of Man versus Nature. Wetlands like this one are like "kidneys of the landscape for they act as purifiers." For the first time in the Park's history, a demonstration by local people and wildlife enthusiasts, held up traffic for want of water, vital for both migratory birds and local communities. Farmers however must be made aware that a parched sanctuary leads to decline in watertable, which in turn affects their sources of drinking water. Ecotourism strategies for wetlands need to address issues like alternative employment, and incentives to ensure that farmers skip a crop if necessary in times of drought.

### **JAISALMER**

Convenor Maharawal Singh held a General Body Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> January, and together with Bindu Manchanda, briefed Members on the progress of the *Jaisalmer in Jeopardy* project. He spoke glowingly about the zeal of its Chairperson Sue Carpenter, and the fund raising organised by her in London that he attended last year for the *Hariraji ka Mahal* and the *Streetscape Project*.

#### **Splashed in Colour**

The Desert Festival instituted 25 years ago is one of the major highlights of Jaisalmer in the month of February. Rare sights like camel polo, camel race, camel dance, camel décor enthral visitors to this citadel city built on Trikuta Hill in 1156 AD. The brightly dressed Rajasthani women are a startling contrast to the bleak Thar Desert. There is a saying that *colour and pattern of the men's turbans and the women's odhis change every 2 dozen miles* in Rajasthan. The State is home to an amazing variety of hand-block prints, *doria*, tie and dye fabrics, mirror work and embroidery that add up to all the colours under the sun. Colourful competitions like tying turbans or the tug-of-war between locals and tourists are a delight. Folk singers and dancers have many a feet thumping to their music. Palaces, *havelis*, temples, wildlife and miniature paintings are other attractions that make for a complete experience of a heritage holiday.

### **JHARKHAND**

State Convenor Shree Deo Singh paid a courtesy call on the Governor of Jharkhand, Shri Syed Sibtey Razi. He is the Patron of Jharkhand Chapter. Principal Secretary to the Governor, Shri Amit Khare also took note of INTACH's work in the State.



S.D. Singh State Convenor Jharkhand meets new Governor Jharkhand H.E. Shri Syed Sibtey Razi.





## KANGRA

Convenor Malvika Pathania in association with the Curator of the Museum of Kangra Art, Shri Ramesh Chandra organized a *Workshop on Preventive Conservation of Art Objects and Manuscripts* at Dharamshala from 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> March. The Governor of Himachal Pradesh, Justice VS Kokje was the Chief Guest for the occasion.

## KARNATAKA

INTACH signed a MOU with the Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation (KUIDFC), which is the nodal agency for the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for developing the coastal towns of the State. Its estimated cost of Rs.40 lakhs per town will be borne 80% by the ADB with 20% to be raised through public contribution. INTACH will initially undertake 3 projects relating to Banavasi, Barkur and Mudabidri where heritage monuments will be restored with landscaping, signages and basic amenities. Convenor PC Nayak, Co-Convenor G. Asvathanarayan and Members of the Karnataka Heritage Committee are in overall charge and will be working in coordination with Government officials, architects and engineers for the execution of these projects.

## KERALA

The six Chapters in the State – Cochin, Calicut, Trivandrum, Kollam, Calicut, Kasargode – have been very active, and for key projects have been ably supported by York scholars and Advisors to the State Art and Heritage Commission, Prof. Eugene Pandala and Prof Ramaswamy. Efforts are on to revive the Aranmula Chapter, and set up new ones at Trichur and Cannanore. The Regional Town Planning Officers in all the 14 districts of Kerala have been entrusted with the work of listing assisted by INTACH experts, and funds provided by the Tourism Department. At the request of DG Police Sri Hormis Tharakan, Convenor KJ Sohan accompanied him on site visit to various historic police stations and some 19<sup>th</sup> century MSP Camps in Malabar. Important records like those relating to the Mapilla Rebellion were located and have been sent to the Mural Painting Research Centre for preservation.

### Prey to Nature's Fury

The 100 year old *Sree Paschimeshwari Temple* at Azhickal near Alappad in Kerala was among the worst hit by the *tsunami*. What remain are the flagstaff, decorated umbrella, some lamps and two small idols. The main idol of Lord Subramanya was washed away. So also three other smaller temples by the shore.

## KOLKATA

Ten years ago the *Evolution of Euro Indian Urbanism on the West Bank of Ganga in Bengal – its Physical Consequences and Conservation Issues* was documented by INTACH. The project is being vitalized by the Chapter after many years, to identify the specifics for promoting cultural tourism with emphasis on a

riverine experience.

On the occasion of Foundation Day, a Photo Exhibition by the renowned Christopher Taylor was organized jointly by British Council, Indo-British Scholars Association and the Regional Chapter. At a time when *Nikons* and *Yashikas* are the rage, this self-taught photographer has captured some exquisite images of heritage buildings by using his old *Roliflex* and *Linhof*. The theme 'a tale of two cities' captured some vibrant images of 19 heritage buildings of Kolkata, and 3 of Mumbai symbolic of the grand colonial architecture. "I completely overlooked Delhi since it's more of a Mughal city", explained Taylor.

A Heritage Awareness Workshop was held on 7<sup>th</sup> March at Barsat, North 24 Parganas organized jointly by the West Bengal Heritage Commission, the Zilla Parishad and INTACH. The Chief Guest, Minister for Urban Development & Municipal Affairs Shri Asok Bhattacharaya was present for the presentations made by INTACH representatives on various aspects like methodology of listing, restoration, etc.

### Kolkata's Mysore Connection

There is a *Tippu Sultan Shahi Mosque* in Dharmatala and his son's *Ghulam Mohammad Shahi Mosque* in Tollygunje, two historically significant architecture. The year 1799 saw the valiant end of Tippu Sultans's resistance to British suzerainty. The vanquished 'Tiger of Mysore' paid a heavy price for challenging the British might, including the deportation of his four sons to Calcutta. A *Mysore Pateha Fund* awarded extensive lands to his progeny, a poor compensation for so much else they had lost. One of his sons Ghulam Mohammad eventually became a leading businessman and built mosques for the Muslim community – in gratitude to Allah and the East India Company Directors!

## KOTA

Convenor K. Chanchal Singh has sent a number of photographs of sites undertaken as a conservation project named simply *Restoration*. It was funded by the British Association of Cemeteries (BACSA) and can be sustained at a monthly expenditure of £10 only.



At the Entrance Gate



Before



After



## LUCKNOW

Convenor VK Bansal reports that fissures have appeared on the *Roomi Darwaza*, an iconic gate for Lucknow. Heavy traffic gets in the way of repair and conservation work; the solution is to ban all traffic but one that may not be considered by the civic authorities.

## MEHSANA

Convenor Javahar Mehta has actively followed up on the development of the Sun Temple environs at Modhera, a project initiated by INTACH. The Gujarat Tourism Department has sanctioned Rs.118.93 lakhs for various components of its restoration.

## MIZORAM

A Teachers' Training Workshop was conducted at Aizwal on 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> February by Dr. Narayani Gupta and Deepti Divya from HECS, and attended by teachers deputed by 20 schools. Dr. Lotika Vardarajan spent a week in mid February meeting a cross section of people with regard to INTACH's project of documenting the traditional knowledge system in the North East. Traditional methods of weaving in mulberry and cri; pottery, bamboo and gourd culture; etc were discussed at length. Convenor J. Lalsangzuala and INTACH Members were invited by the Ministry of Textiles to attend the *Workshop on Design and Technology Development* for documentation and registration of handicrafts of Mizoram under various Protection Acts.

## MUMBAI

Convenor Tasneem Mehta invited MP Shri Vinod Khanna and his wife to run for INTACH at the *Mumbai Marathon, Dream Run* organized on 16<sup>th</sup> January. Other luminaries participating were corporate honcho Vikram Mehta, Jagdish Malkani, Hafiza Golandaz, Tanya Mashurwala and Gargi Masurwala. Bollywood was represented by the Bachhans, Hema Malini and Salman Khan as



Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum is scheduled to open to the public in November 2005. The INTACH Conservation Laboratory is already functioning from its premises.

onlookers and thronged by star struck crowds. The spirit was not flagging among the grey haired either, some like *Ghazal* singer Talat Aziz ran after 30 years.

The *UNESCO-INTACH Business Leaders forum* was another highly visible event of the Chapter. In collaboration with UNESCO Bangkok, a three day workshop was held on positioning Mumbai as the *creative center for the Asia-Pacific region*. UNESCO delegates were exposed to a kaleidoscopic experience of visiting Dr Bhau Daji Lad Museum, Elephanta Caves, embroidery workshop of fashion designers Abu Jani and Sandeep Khosla. They commented on the richness and potential of the city to serve as an exemplary model.

Chairman Charles Wallace India Trust and Convenor Scottish Stone Liaison Group, Mr. Ingal Maxwell was equally impressed with the revitalization of the Bhau Daji Lad Museum, and the setting up of a conservation laboratory and documentation center on its premises during this visit in February.

The Maharashtra Government authorities called a meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> February to discuss how best to implement INTACH's Comprehensive Conservative Management and Sustainable Development Plan for Elephanta prepared by the Mumbai Chapter. Stakeholders present included the Collector, Sarpanch, MMRDA, MTDC to name a few.

### *Rajabai Clock Tower*

The 280 feet Rajabai Clock Tower on the premises of Mumbai University, a familiar landmark of the city, is 125 years old. Philanthropist Premchand Raichand built it in memory of his mother, along with the adjacent library building where many contemporary writers have studied. The Library houses eight lakh books and periodicals in Sanskrit and other languages; and also many manuscript in Urdu, Persian and Arabic.

### *Royal Lobby Mills*

Mumbai mills were once remarkable landmarks of the city – till one by one they shut down and became dilapidated and deserted structures. The *Prince of Wales' Phoenix Trust* and the *International Network for Traditional Building, Architecture and Urbanisation (INTBAU)* came together with the Mumbai Chapter to hold a workshop for conserving this unique heritage asset of the city.

## NAGERCOIL

Convenor Dr. RS Lal Mohan reported on *tsunami* after visiting Kollam where an entire village had been swept away within 10 minutes by giant waves. Many tourists met with a watery grave. The total loss along the Kanyakumari coast is estimated as Rs.200 crores, 15,000 boats, 20,000 fishing nets. Much frequented places like the *Manakudy*



Pillaihothpe village : ravages of Tsunami





Kerala Manakudy Church damaged



Colachel Mosque



Convenor R S Lal at Eraniel Palace with Arvind Kumar

## ORISSA

The Bhubaneswar Chapter has formed a Core Group to draft a model legislation for preservation and conservation of heritage sites of the State. The Convenor Lalit Mansingh has also written to the authorities highlighting the present state of Similipal, a rare natural heritage site suggesting improvements required there as well as at Bhitara Kanika, Chilika and Anshupa. The Chapter has undertaken design preparation for erecting memorials, to be dedicated to the great personalities of Orissa for their contribution in the fields of art, literature, science, politics, etc.

A team comprising INTACH Members AB Tripathy, IPS (Retd), A. Beuria, IFS (Retd), Prof KS Behera, Prof. CR Das visited Puri for an on the spot assessment of Shri Jaganath Temple complex with regard to environment, security and convenience of pilgrims. Discussions were held with the Raja of Puri, Temple Management, and senior citizens to evolve an integrated approach for enhancing this much venerated heritage site.

## PUNE

Co-Convenor Sanjay Deshpande reported on the River Clean-up Project undertaken by the Chapter. Today the Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation treats 101 MLD of the estimated 157 MLD of sewerage generated daily. Pune Municipality treats 235 MLD of the 550 MLD generated each

day. The rest flows into the Mula, Pavana and Mula-Mutha rivers. Efforts will continue relentlessly as there is much scope for improvement.

The Chapter is in the meanwhile geared up to play a proactive role on the Pune Cantonment Heritage Advisory Committee.

Warsaa, the Heritage Shop set up at Shaniwarwada, invited prominent Punekhars and children to showcase the various uses of "khan" fabric. A new product range was also unveiled on this occasion to mark the first anniversary of the shop.

**REWARI**

**A INTACH Corner is functioning as part of the Parshuram Library, with a shelf full of books donated by Members.**

A 10-days camp held at the close of last year has brought the restoration of Tej Sarovar to the attention of the authorities. The DC Shri RC Raba directed the Municipality to get rid of garbage, sewage and waste water. Even the *pujari* of nearby temple was issued a notice for throwing garbage, and people were persuaded to remove cow dung cakes and *uplas* from the Sarovar walls.

**SANTINIKETAN**

A Heritage Awareness Walk was organized by the Chapter on 16<sup>th</sup> February for the first time, for residents and students of Viva Bharati covering the major historic landmarks. Convenor Subir Adhikari obtained permission to enter the Ashram area and the participation of *Patha Bhaban* students.

**SHIMLA**

The restoration of the famous Gaeity Theatre is progressing and the roof will be completed by end of May – much to the delight of visitors to this popular summer hill destination for many.

**BUTTERFLY PARKS**

Trillions of colourful butterflies migrate from the Indian plains to the lofty hills and green meadows of Himachal Pradesh every Spring. The State's wildlife wing is studying the flora and fauna of the region to set up butterfly gardens, to promote their numbers and varieties. These gardens will become a major tourist attraction of the region.

## REWARI

**SANTINIKETAN**

**SHIMLA**

## BUTTERFLY PARKS

**SRIKAKULAM**

Collector N. Nageswararao held a review meeting in his capacity as INTACH Convenor. Listing of heritage buildings and folk arts, starting Heritage Clubs, year long radio talks and publication of awareness brochures are some of the major targets supported



Smt. Alo Roy talking about Heritage Awareness





by large number of Members who attended the Meeting. The Convenor appealed to philanthropists to donate generously to the conservation cause, with an inspiring speech on 6<sup>th</sup> February at the Bapuji Kalamandir.

## THANJAVUR

The first public meeting of the Chapter was well publicized inviting attention of the people that they lived in the “*cultural bowl of Tamil Nadu*”. Member Shankar Vanavarayar writes that the 27<sup>th</sup> January meeting at the Darasuram Temple typifies the Chapter’s efforts to project religion in a secular way. About 150 people including Members, officials, teachers, devotees and villagers gathered at the brief ritual. It commenced with the lighting of the lamp by a lady doctor Dr. Amutha Pandiyan, a Christian priest specially invited, and Member Abdul Jaleel. Eminent historians Dr. G. Deivanayagam and Dr. Kudavail Balasubramaniam delivered lectures on the history and architecture of the Chola period. The significance of such an eclectic gathering was widely commented by the large media presence.

Member TM Sarafoji has authored a book in Tamil regarding a new script for writing this language to facilitate a computer form, using digital ‘8’ method. The Tamil script numbering 247 can be thus reduced for application. Within just three symbols one gets 15 scripts i.e. written symbol of articulate sound. President APJ Kalam has complimented his effort on receiving a copy of the book.

### 14<sup>th</sup> Century Milestone

Research scholar Kudavayil Balasubramaniam and TM Sarafoji associated with the Saraswathi Mahal Library discovered a 14<sup>th</sup> century milestone with the inscriptions “*Nodiyur, Pozhakudi, Adhinayaga Nallur*” and markings at Vendayampatti village in Thanjavur district. It indicates that the practice of putting up directional signs existed for more than a 1000 years in Tamil Nadu. A 10<sup>th</sup> century *Ayyanar* and *Sapthamathar* statues also found in this village signify that the region was flourishing even earlier than 14<sup>th</sup> century.

### Strength in Forethought

The 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> century AD monuments of the Pallava dynasty withstood the *tsunami* that struck the Mamallapuram coast. The giant blue metal boulders installed around the sea face by the Pallava kings served as a protective barricade, even as ferocious waves raced more than 500 metres inland and left over 3 ft silt.

The 1620 Dansborg Fort (Danish) at Tranquebar in Nagapattinam district also escaped the *tsunami* fury. Seawater rose to the height of 5 feet hurling three catamarans, and smashing its way through the main door it swept away several hamlets in the vicinity - but the Fort stands.

## UTTAR PRADESH

Shri Alok Sinha of the Indian Administrative Service, and a long time associate of INTACH, has been appointed as State

Convenor, Uttar Pradesh.

## UTTARANCHAL

State Convenor Dr. Ranjit Bhargava has written to the Chief Minister Shri Narayan Dutt Tewari on the absolute necessity for setting up Environment and Heritage Protection Committee/ Cells at all levels of the State Government. Considerable damage has taken place in the forest areas due to ignorance and above all lack of coordination in the public domain. The *Van Panchayats* should also give more attention to non-forest components of environment and heritage, and encourage the public to play a more direct and constructive role in these matters.

### Herbal State

A Conservation, Development and Harvesting Plan has been prepared by the Uttaranchal Government to boost cultivation of aromatic and medicinal plants in the hill regions. Each forest range would have a “*conservation compartment*” strictly reserved for herbs, with the specific objective of giving livelihood to people and reducing their dependence on other forest products. An annual Rapid Mapping Exercise (RME) is part of the plan for the protection of threatened species and medicinal plants.

## VADODARA

The University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign has been working with the Heritage Trust since 2001 on creating a Landscape Design Plan for Champaner-Pavagadh World Heritage Site. On 13<sup>th</sup> January a team of landscape architects headed by Prof. Amita Sinha and Prof. James Wescoat made a presentation at which Shri Dinesh Brahmabhatt, Collector, Panchmahals, under whose jurisdiction it falls and Shri Prafulbhai Patel, Vice President World Bank were present among other guests of honour. The Forest Department which ‘owns’ more than 90% of the site is strongly in favour of landscape intervention to revive the legendary gardens and to make a study of indigenous flora and fauna so that visually, historically and environmentally the site gets presented in an authentic manner.

On this occasion three national-level winners of the recent Indian Express-INTACH Heritage Essay Competition were awarded cash prizes.

### Enchanting Gardens

*Darwaat-e-Barboza* by Mansel Dames cites a Portuguese traveller Duarte Barboza’s description of Champaner’s lush gardens, serene lakes and pleasant *baradaris*. The Sultan, Mehmud Begda, brought the Persian gardener Khorassani to lay out the gardens. It was his talented disciple Halu who landscaped the vast garden at Halol, supposedly named after him, located 6 kms from Champaner.

## VARANASI

A seminar was organised to mark the centenary year of Acharya Vasudev Saran Agarwal, attended by intellectuals and scholars





of Indian Heritage followed by a cultural programme.

### Sanchi Stupas

Sanchi is the oldest extant Buddhist sanctuary, although Buddha never visited this site. The *stupas* are a focus spot for scholars of different disciplines of social science, and are not merely representative of Buddhist art and architecture styles of 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC. The *stupas* mirror the activities of at least six periods of history, viz. Maurya, Sunga, Satvahana, Gupta, early and later medieval periods that flourished from 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC to 11<sup>th</sup> century AD. The gateway to the Sanchi Stupa is exclusively carved with sacred symbols of *Hinyana Buddhism* represented by the *padma* (lotus), *simha* (lion) *chakra* (circle), *chhatra* (canopy) and *vriksha* (tree).

### WARANGAL

In conjunction with the Indian Red Cross Society (IRS), a massive heritage awareness program was undertaken covering as many as 51 *mandals* of Warangal District. Actively promoted by the IRS Chairperson Smt. Rajyalakshmi Siva Sankar and its Vice President Dr. Sampath Raja Ram, and Convenor Prof.M.Pandu Ranga Rao, about 500 students and 50 teachers attended each of the 18 motivation camps. The total coverage was an impressive 9000 youth and 900 teachers from the rural sector – motivated and self confident at the conclusion of the camps!

### INTACH OVERSEAS CHAPTER : BELGIUM

INTACH Belgium Chapter came into existence just a year ago, but already it has enrolled 72 enthusiastic Members. Spring is

in the air, after months of freezing cold so the Chapter is gearing up for a spate of good weather activities. The *Asian Fair* in February was a great success, especially because of media coverage by *Radio Vlaaderen International* and the local TV channel. While the photographs of the *Lost Gardens* of Khajuraho aroused considerable interest, it was decided to add textual details to the pictures for the coming round of summer fairs. The booth selling INTACH publications, Khajuraho tourist brochures, and some knickknacks attracted many buyers keen to acquire something from India. There is scope to sell artifacts from the Heritage Shop of INTACH Head Office at some future date. A letter from a bio-farmer Johan D’Hulster from AKELEL, offering to help with the six gardens of the Khajuraho project – *Sona ka Bagh, Pateriya ka Bagh, Rani ka Bagh, Bada Bagh, Ram Bagh, Khan ka Bagh* - was indeed a welcome surprise for the Chapter.

Convenor Geert Robberechts met with the communication agency LOBA, and has suggested a monthly column in a newspaper or magazine. The newly constituted Editorial Board of the Chapter met on 23<sup>rd</sup> March to discuss the contents of the proposed newsletter covering their activities as well as news from INTACH Head Office. The Cultural Counsellor of the Belgium Embassy in Delhi will be contributing an article on Indian Music. Meanwhile the Indian Embassy has agreed to extend patronage to the Belgian Chapter of INTACH.



## News from Here and There

### Shubbha Swastika

There was national outrage in England when a young Prince wore a Nazi uniform and a *swastika* armband to a fancy dress party. The European Commissioner for Justice, Freedom and Security is willing to ban the symbol.

On the other hand, Ramesh Kallidai of the Hindu Forum announced plans for *pro-swastika* educational workshops throughout Britain. He declared that this symbol facing to the right represents sun, and has been used by Hindus for 5000 years on doorways, building, jewellery and is part of Hindu religious traditions. It augurs good fortune, having been derived from a Sanskrit word meaning “fortunate”. In case of a ban, Hindus would risk breaking the law. It can be mistaken for the left facing *swastika* that is associated symbolically with hate, violence, anti-Semitism in western countries.

### Last Wings

Asia’s only pigeon service is likely to be scrapped, after six decades of yeoman service to military establishments. Nearly 1400 pigeons under supervision of the Orissa Police will retire, as per recommendations of an audit report. It however costs just Rs.2 lakhs to retain this unique corps established by Sultan

Nuruddin Ahmed of Delhi in the year 1288. Obviously no one is thinking about future exigencies like *tsunami*, cyclones or other natural calamities when pigeon mail might come to our rescue when other means of communication have failed!

But before the pigeon mail service is assigned to the pages of history, an effort has started by the Government of India to capture its services through a documentary. A six-member team headed by Deputy Chief Producer of the Film Division Kuldeep Sinha has arrived at Cuttack for the purpose.

### Trunk Road

There was a photograph of a large pachyderm named Diew placidly getting on an enormous toilet to answer the call of nature, before flushing it. An editor rightly commented that the picture should be seen for what it really is : a display of



enormous patience that elephants have in dealing with the idiosyncracies of the human mind. Man needs to let the pachyderms be, and reserve toilet training for homo sapiens who pollute the roadside walls and environment!

### **Ancient Babylon**

It is reported that Babylon was damaged – no one knows to what extent during the merciless bombing of Iraq. A part of the Mesopotamian civilisation may have been lost. The capital of Hammurabi and Nebudchadnezzar, the Hanging Gardens that Herodotus once saw as one of the *Seven Wonders* of the ancient world became camping grounds for US occupation forces in 2003, and later for the Polish army. Probably *Bechtel* or *Haliburton*, now active in the area, will restore Babylon in a new jazzed up version of Americana?

### **Imperial India**

The book *Splendours of Imperial India* by Andreas Volwahren was launched in the New Year featuring 200 colour and 125 black and white illustrations of buildings of the British era. One can see that architecture developed differently in each of the Presidencies of Calcutta, Bombay and Madras. Even today Mumbai beats Britain in public buildings that are the finest examples of *Victorian Gothic Revival*, some say.

### **Global Warming**

**Scientists from the British Antarctic Survey have reported that in some parts of the Antarctica Peninsula large growths of grass have appeared, where formerly they were deeply frozen areas. In fact huge glaciers in remote areas of the Antarctica are thinning and ice shelves the size of American states are either disintegrating or retreating. Global warming? Alarm bells are ringing!**

### **Saving Taj**

The Indian Hotels, with whom the Government had signed an MOU for funding the Taj Mahal upkeep, has been asked to draw up a plan in consultation with ASI for assessing its carrying capacity. Concerned at the growing pressure along the fountain way corridor, a specific visitor pathway will be created so that visitors also see what they by pass now – like the mosque and the museum. It would decongest the most frequented corridor. Entry fee may also see a hike.

#### **Condolences**

Life Member Shri Ramesh Manipal passed away. INTACH sends its heart felt condolences to his bereaved family and shares their sorrow at this grievous time.

#### **NEW ARRIVALS AT LIBRARY**

Ohri, Vishwa Chander	The Technique of Pahari Painting	2001
Chopra, Kanchan	Migration, Common Property Resources & Environmental Degradation: Interlink Ages in India's Arid and Semi-Arid Regions	2001
Guha, Ramachandra, Ed	Social Ecology	2001
Madan, Vandana, Ed	The Village in India	2002
Shaw, Ian, Ed	A Dictionary of Archaeology	2002
Murphy, Patricia Watkins	Organizing for Community Controlled Development: Renewing Civil Society	2003
Rao, Aparna, Ed	Nomadism in South Asia	2003
Parikh, Jyoti, Ed	Sustainable Management of Wetlands Biodiversity of Beyond	2003
Giri, Ananta Kumar, Ed	Creative Social Research: Rethinking Theories and Methods	2004
Nathan, Dev, Ed	Globalization and Indigenous Peoples in Asia: Changing the Local-Global Interface	2004
Guha-Thakurta, Tapati	Monuments, Objects, Histories: Institutions of Art in Colonial and Postcolonial India	2004
Hodgson, Marshall G.S.	The Venture of Islam: Conscience and History in a World Civilization. 3 Vols.	2004
Singh, K.S., Ed	People of India: Maharashtra. 3 Vols.	2004
Madan, T.N., Ed	Religion in India	2004
Ashraf, Jaweed	Studies in Historical Ecology of India	2004
Madan, T.N., Ed	India's Religions	2004
Chacko, Pariyaram M., Ed	Tribal Communities and Social Change	2005
Somekh, Bridget, Ed	Research Methods in the Social Sciences	2005
Uberoi, Patricia, Ed	Family, Kinship and Marriage in India	2005
Kaviraj, Sudipta, Ed	Politics in India	2005





## Blooming Trouble

There is a saying in Mizoram that when the bamboo flowers, death and destruction follow! Folklore apart, scientists have identified a strange phenomenon called *gregarious bamboo flowering* which causes ecological havoc. The bamboo dies after flowering and takes a few years to produce seeds which are often eaten up by rodents (and activates their birth rate) which feed on agricultural crops and cause famine. Meanwhile the bare soil is disastrous, especially in mountain regions. It also leads to food scarcity since some animals depend on bamboo plants.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests – including experts from the International Bamboo and Rattan Network (INBAR) and the UN Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) – is working on how to handle the natural growth cycle of the bamboo which has such an extraordinary socio-economic and long term ecological impact. It is estimated that the pulp, paper, handloom, food, fodder, medicine and cottage industries consume about 22 million tons of bamboo annually.

## Save the Tiger


The 'vanishing tigers' in Sariska, Ranthambore, Betla and other game reserves have been in the news, instead of their so called sanctuaries! It is said *India is over-legislated and under-governed*. This is particularly relevant to wildlife preservation; and reconciling livelihood security with protection of flora and fauna of forests and national parks. And enforcement of strict regulations and punitive measures!



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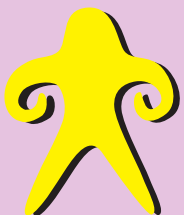
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**Editor:** Rajeshwari Tandon

Published & Printed by Dalip Mehta for Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage(INTACH).  
 Published from 71, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi - 110003.  
 Tel: 24641304, 24692774, 24645482. Fax: 24611290  
 Designed by VAP, H 24, Green Park Extn., New Delhi - 110016. Tel: 26196787.  
 Printed at Pushpak Press Pvt. Ltd., 119, DSIDC Complex. Okhla Industrial Area Phase I, New Delhi 20.