

ICOMOS INDIA

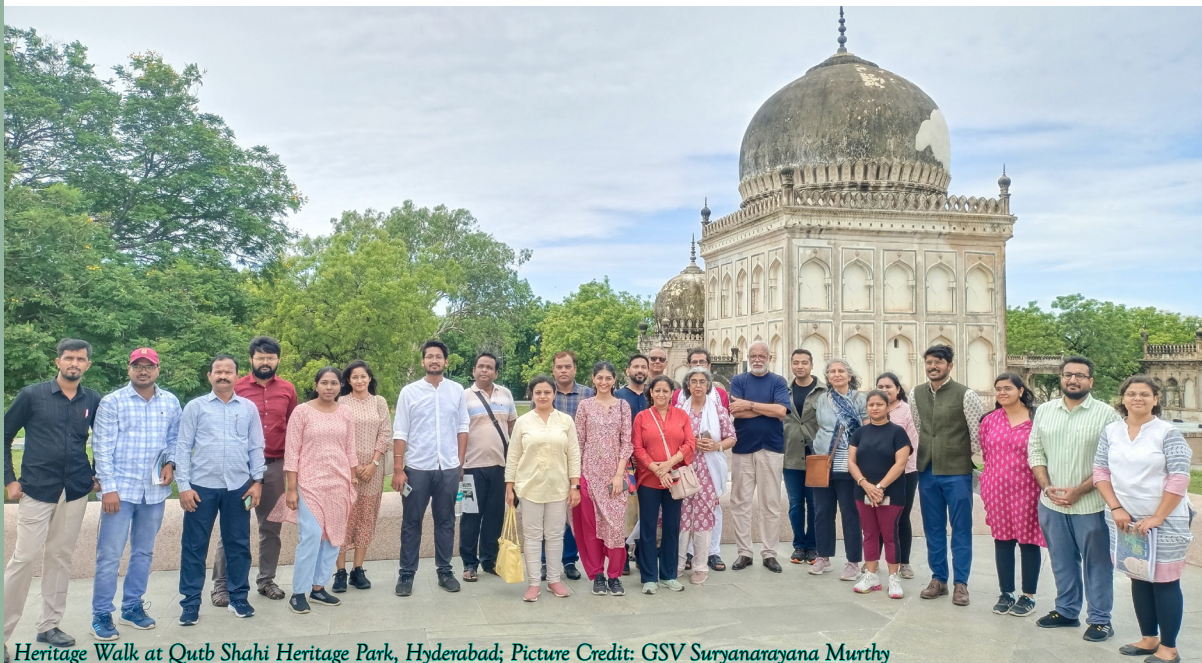
APRIL - JUNE 2023

COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS & SITES



Dr. MCR HRD Institute of Telangana, Hyderabad; Picture Credit: GSV Suryanarayana Murthy

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023



Heritage Walk at Qutb Shahi Heritage Park, Hyderabad; Picture Credit: GSV Suryanarayana Murthy

CONTENTS

SL. NO.	TOPIC	PAGE NO.
1	Events Calendar	3
2	From the Secretariat: Announcements, Events, Financial Reporting	4-7
3	Annual General Meeting 2023	8-9
4	Zonal News	10
5	NSC Corner	10-11
6	Collaborative Activities	11-16
7	Members' Corner	16-19

EVENTS CALENDAR

April to June 2023

SL. NO.	DATE	NSC / ZONE / INSTITUTE	POINT OF CONTACT	NAME OF THE EVENT
1	13-14 Apr	NSC 20C, KRVI & EPWG	Annabel Lopez, NSC 20C Coordinator	International Webinar on 'Future for the Modern Past: Heritage-Led Development For IIM Ahmedabad'
2	18 Apr	West Bengal Heritage Commission	Ananya Bhattacharya, East Zone Rep.	Heritage Day - Launch of ICOMOS India E-Publication on 'Resilient and Sustainable Development of Historic
3	18 Apr	North Zone & SPA, Delhi	Smita Dutta Makhija, North Zone Rep.	Heritage Day - Heritage Changes & Lifestyle For Environment
4	19 Apr	Central Zone & WforW foundation	Nishant Upadhyay, Central Zone Rep.	Riverscape Series - III: Climate Change, Culture and Riverscapes
5	23 Apr	North Zone, NSC ICH, Heritage Quest & Shajahanbadi Foundation	Smita Dutta Makhija, North Zone Rep	Heritage Day - Heritage Walk - A Trail around the Markers in Delhi during the Siege of the Capital in 1857
6	25 Apr	NSC Shared Built Heritage	Sukanya Mitra, NSC SBH Coordinator	Heritage Day - Studying Danish Culture in the Indian Context: A Discussion on the Danish settlements of Serampore and
7	13, 20, 27 May, 3, 10 June	NSC Cultural Tourism, NSC HTV & NSC ICH	Madhu Vottery, NSC CT Coordinator	Webinar series 'Connecting The Dots: Season 2'
8	20-May	NSC Theophil, NSC Cultural Landscapes, NSC Education & Training, NSC LAFI & South Zone	Nalini Thakur, NSC Theophil Coordinator	New Education and Management For Responsible Conservation in India
9	27 May	NSC Theophil, NSC Cultural Landscapes, NSC Education & Training, NSC LAFI & South Zone	Nalini Thakur, NSC Theophil Coordinator	New Paradigm Management For Conservation Education And Real Grounded Actions Towards For Sustainability
10	16 June	East Zone & NSC HD	Bikramjit Chakraborty, East Zone Rep.	Heritage Walk - District-Level Exploration of Terracotta Temples
11	21 June	Central Zone & WforW foundation	Nishant Upadhyay, Central Zone Rep	Riverscape Series - IV: Holistic Approaches in Water Heritage Documentation
12	24 June	ICOMOS India	GSV Suryanarayana Murthy, South Zone Rep. & Madhu Vottery,	AGM - Held at Dr. MCR HRD Institute of Telangana, Hyderabad
13	25 Jun	Aga Khan Trust for Culture	GSV Suryanarayana Murthy, South Zone Rep.	Heritage Walk - Qutb Shahi Heritage Park, Hyderabad

From the Secretariat

The April to June quarter saw two meetings taking place. The first being the 17th Executive Committee Members Meeting (ExCom 17), which was held on 21st April 2023 between 6:30 - 8:30 PM (IST) through online mode on the Zoom platform with the ExCom members and the Secretariat Staff in attendance. This was the last meeting with the former ExCom (2020-2023). The second meeting was the handover meeting which took place on 25th June 2023, the details of which are mentioned below in the following section of The New Executive Committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Elections of new Executive Committee

With the three year tenure (2020-2023) of the existing Executive Committee coming to an end in June 2023, elections to form the Executive Committee for the next tenure were held from 8th to 22nd June 2023, with the result being announced on 24th June 2023 at the ICOMOS India AGM 2023. The New Executive Committee 2023-2026 was formed and the handover meeting took place on 25th June 2023 in hybrid mode.



ExCom. 2020-2023; Photo Credit: GSV Suryanarayan Murthy



ExCom. handover meeting; Photo Credit: GSV Suryanarayan Murthy

THE NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee election results were announced during the AGM 2023. The new Executive Committee elected for the tenure 2023-2026 is as follows:

President	Dr. Rima Hooja
Vice President	Ms. Shalini Dasgupta
Secretary	Mr. Nitin Sinha
Treasurer	Ms. Jana Das Chaudhuri
North Zone Representative	Ms. Smita Datta Makhija
East Zone Representative	Mr. Bikramjit Chakraborty
North East Zone Representative	Mr. Dilip Changkakoty
South Zone Representative	Mr. GSV Suryanarayana Murthy
West Zone Representative	Ms. Poonam Trambadia
Central Zone Representative	Ms. Anuradha Chaturvedi
Institutional Representative - FoAP, AKTU, Lucknow	Dr. Vandana Sehgal

The official handing over and taking over meeting between the outgoing and new Executive Committee was organized through the zoom platform on 25th June 2023, in hybrid mode, with

the former and current Executive Committee Members and the Secretariat staff in attendance. We take this opportunity to extend our sincere gratitude to the outgoing President Mr. Navin Pilani, Treasurer Ms. Priyanka Singh, East Zone Representative, Ms. Ananya Bhattacharya, Central Zone Representative Mr. Nishant Upadhyay and Institutional Member Representative Dr. Jigna Desai for their invaluable support to ICOMOS India during their tenure.

2. Stepping down/Resignation of Research Assistant

Ms. Simran Deshpande, Research Assistant, Secretariat Office, ICOMOS India, who joined as a Research Intern in December 2021, put in her papers in January 2023 and served her notice period till 7th May 2023. We take this opportunity to thank Ms. Simran Deshpande, for her invaluable support and dedication to ICOMOS India during her tenure.

EVENT NEWS

1. International webinar on 'Future for the Modern Past: Heritage-Led Development For IIM Ahmedabad by NSC 20C

NSC 20C in collaboration with KRIVA & EPWG organized a two days webinar on 'Future for the Modern Past: Heritage-Led Development for IIM Ahmedabad on 13th and 14th April on the Zoom platform. For more information on the event, contact the NSC 20C coordinator.

2. Launch of ICOMOS India E-Publication on 'Resilient and Sustainable Development of Historic Precincts and Areas'

A publication on the proceedings of East Zone and NSC HTV 2020 Webinar Series on Resilient and Sustainable Development of Historic Areas and Precincts: Focus West Bengal, was launched as part of the World Heritage Day Celebrations by the West Bengal Heritage Commission on April 18, 2023 at Kolkata. Further details about the event and publication are available [here](#).

3. Discourse on Heritage Changes & Lifestyle for Environment

On account of WHD, North Zone collaborated with SPA Delhi to hold a discourse on "Intergenerational dialogues on Cultural approaches", keeping in view the theme for this year "Heritage Changes". Read more about the event [here](#).

4. Webinar on Riverscape Series - III: Climate Change, Culture and Riverscape

Central Zone in collaboration with Wednesdays For Water Foundation organized the third talk in the Riverscape Series on 19th April in online mode. The panel consisted of Ar. Ashim Manna and Ar. Hannah John facilitated by Ms. Proshakha Maitra and Dr. Mansee Bhargava. For more information on the event, contact the Central Zone representative.

5. Heritage Walk - A Trail around the Markers in Delhi during the Siege of the Capital in 1857

North Zone, in collaboration with Shahjahanabadi Foundation and Heritage Quest conducted a heritage walk highlighting the significance of Kashmiri Gate with regards to the 1857 siege of Delhi by East India company. Further details of the walk are available [here](#).

6. Studying Danish Culture in the Indian Context: A Discussion on the Danish settlements of Serampore and Tranquebar

NSCSBHorganisedanonline discussion on the Danish Settlements of Serampore and Tranquebar on April 25, 2023 to celebrate World Heritage Day 2023. Read more about the event [here](#).

7. Webinar series 'Connecting The Dots: Season 2'

NSC CT in collaboration with NSC HTV & NSC ICH organized the event 'Connecting the Dots... Season 02' which was a continuation of NSC CT's event from the year 2022. These were a series of 5 talks conducted in the months of May and June 2023. More information about the event is available [here](#).

8. Roundtable discussion on New Education and Management For Responsible Conservation in India

A roundtable discussion was organized by NSC Theophilos in collaboration with NSC CL, NSC TC, NSC LAFI and South Zone on the theme of "New Education and Management for Responsible Conservation in India on 20th May 2023. Read more about the event [here](#).

9. Webinar on New Paradigm Management For Conservation Education And Real Grounded Actions Towards For Sustainability

Marking India's 75th year of Indian Independence, and 50th year of the World Heritage Convention, this webinar series organized by NSC Theophilos in collaboration with NSC CL, NSC TC, NSC LAFI and South Zone deliberated on the crucial need for introspection in heritage studies and conservation and was held on 27th May 2023. For more information on the event click [here](#).

10. Heritage Walk by East Zone & NSC Heritage Documentation

A heritage walk was organized by East Zone in collaboration with NSC HD to explore the terracotta temples of Bengal on 16th June 2023. Read more about this event [here](#).

11. Webinar - Riverscape Series - IV: Holistic Approaches in Water Heritage Documentation

Central Zone in collaboration with Wednesdays.For.Water Foundation organized the fourth

talk in the Riverscape Series on 21st June on Zoom platform, with the Panel consisting of Ar. Nupur Bhatnagar and Ar. Sukrit Sen, facilitated by Ms. Monami Bhattacharya and Nishant Upadhyay. For more information on this event, contact the Central Zone representative.

12. ICOMOS India Annual General Meeting 2023

The Annual General Meeting of ICOMOS India, was held at Dr. MCR HRD Institute of Telangana, Hyderabad on 24th June 2023 in hybrid mode. Read more about the AGM 2023 [here](#).

AGM AT A GLANCE

ICOMOS India conducted its AGM in hybrid mode on 24th June 2023 at Dr. MCR HRD Institute of Telangana, Hyderabad. The AGM quorum was achieved when a total of 179 members, including 93 voting members were present (online and offline).

The key proceedings included:

- Welcome address and presentation of Annual Report by Dr. Navin Piplani, Chair and outgoing President.
- Approval of agenda and presentation of minutes of last AGM 2022 by, Ms. Shalini Dasgupta, outgoing Secretary.
- Presentation of Secretariat Report (2022-2023) by Ms. Shalini Dasgupta, outgoing Secretary.
- Presentation of Audited accounts and expenditure (2022-2023) by outgoing Treasurer Priyanka Singh.
- Update on Zonal Activities by respective Zonal Representatives
- Presentation and updates on NSC's & Working Groups' activities by Dr. Arun Menon, NSC Counsellor
- Address by Ms. Rima Hooja, Vice President
- Presentation of results for the election committee by election officer Ar Kalpana Raghavendra and Returning Officer Ar Xavier Benedict
- Election of new president Dr Rima Hooja.
- Vote of thanks and closing remarks was by Ms. Shalini Dasgupta

13. Heritage Walk - Qutb Shahi Heritage Park, Hyderabad

A heritage walk at Qutb Shahi Heritage Park, Hyderabad was curated by Aga Khan Trust for Culture early morning on the 25th of June 2023. Read more about the walk [here](#).

FINANCIAL REPORTING

The April - June 2023 quarter saw the preparation and verification of the audited accounts which were presented at the Annual General Meeting 2023 for approval by all members and was duly finalized. In addition, the AGM also saw the presentation of the annual budget for the Financial Year 2023-2024, which was adopted by the membership.

Annual General Meeting 2023

*MOM Report by Ar. Madhu Vottery, Rapporteur & NSC CT Coordinator
Consolidated by Akanksha Malik Parashar, Research Intern, ICOMOS India*

ICOMOS India's Annual General Meeting was held on 24th June 2023 from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm, at MCR HRD Institute of Telangana, Hyderabad. Held in hybrid mode, through the zoom platform, it saw several attendees from across our membership joining us for the event. The quorum was successfully achieved with a total of 179 members in attendance (both online and offline), among which 93 were voting members.

The programme was inaugurated by lighting of the lamp, by the dignitaries who were gracing the occasion. These included IAS Shri. Sandeep Sultania, Principal Secretary, YA T&C, Shri B. Narayana, Deputy Director, Department of Heritage Telangana, Shri M. Vedakumar, Chairman, Deccan Heritage Academy Trust, Shri Ratish Nanda, CEO Aga Khan Trust for Culture, Dr Navin Piplani, President, ICOMOS India and Ar. GSV Suryanarayana Murthy, South Zone Representative, ICOMOS India.

Sri Sultania extended his gratitude and thanked ICOMOS India for choosing Hyderabad as a venue for the AGM 2023 as well as for their efforts in the nomination of Ramappa Temple as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. He went on to brief the gathering about the Master Plan of the area around the WHS and the Government of India's involvement there. He also mentioned about the efforts taken by the Telangana State Government and Aga Khan Trust for Culture, in restoring heritage Sites, the likes of Qutb Shahi Tombs. The South Zone Representative, Ar. GSV Suryanarayana Murthy, thereafter, invited Dr Navin Piplani, the outgoing President to present the Welcome Address. Dr Piplani spoke about the efforts taken by ICOMOS India members as a part of the different NSC's and ISC's for research exploration and publications. He stressed upon ICOMOS India's role as an advisory body to the government, similar to that of ICOM and ICCROM. Taking this opportunity, he thanked the Executive Committee 2020-2023 for their efforts by highlighting how, even during the pandemic the ExCom planned, organized and executed various scholarly events virtually. The South Zone Representative, Ar. GSV Suryanarayana Murthy then thanked Dr. Piplani and that brought the Inaugural Session of the AGM to a close.

Outgoing Secretary, Ar. Shalini Dasgupta, then took the stage and the approval of agenda, as well as presenting the minutes of AGM 2022 was done by her. Thereafter, the AGM 2023 followed the due process of appointment of Chair of the meeting, Dr. Navin Piplani, outgoing President ICOMOS India and appointment of rapporteur - Ar. Madhu Vottery.

With the term of the Executive Committee coming to an end, elections were held in June 2023 and hence the outgoing Secretary, Ar. Shalini Dasgupta introduced the Election Officer, Ar. Kalpana Raghavendra and Returning Officer, Ar Xavier Benedict. Dr. Navin Piplani, outgoing President ICOMOS India, and Chair then presented the Annual Report, wherein he briefed the members about the activities and events organized by ICOMOS India. As outgoing President he thanked the EPWG and NSC's. The events as a part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav and a road map for 25 years were also discussed by him. This was followed by Ar. Shalini Dasgupta, outgoing Secretary presenting the Secretariat Report (2022-2023). The outgoing Treasurer, Priyanka Singh, thereafter presented the Expenditure (2022-2023), Audited accounts, Budget (2023-2024) and appointment of the CA & Auditor for the financial year 2023-2024. This was followed by the six zonal Representatives giving updates on zonal activities. These included, Dr. Ananya Bhattacharya for the East zone, Ar. Poonam Trambadia for the West zone, Dr Smita Makhija for the North zone, Professor GSV Suryanarayana Murthy for the South zone, Ar. Nishant Upadhyay for the Central zone and Er. Dilip Chngkakoti for the North East zone. The NSC Counselor, Dr. Arun Menon, then presented the updates on NSCs and WGs activities. This was followed by the outgoing Vice President, Dr. Rima Hooja's address. The result of the elections for the Executive Committee 2023-2026 which were held in June 2023 & Introduction of the newly elected Executive Committee was announced by the election officer and returning officer.

Last, but not the least, the vote of thanks and closing remarks were given by outgoing Secretary, Ar. Shalini Dasgupta, and with this the AGM 2023 came to an end. The AGM 2023 was a successful event where members, in person and online, met and discussed the progress that ICOMOS India has made over the years and also planned for a future course of action, stepping into a more proactive approach for conservation and preservation of heritage and culture.

On 25th June 2023, as part of the AGM 2023, Aga Khan Trust for Culture, in collaboration with Deccan Heritage Academy Trust, organized a heritage walk at Qutb Shahi Heritage Park, Hyderabad. The walk was flagged off by the dignitaries at Qutb Shahi Park entrance and several people including the dignitaries Navin Piplani, outgoing President, ICOMOS India, Shalini Dasgupta, outgoing Secretary, ICOMOS India, Sri. G.S.V. Suryanarayana Murthy, Convenor, South Zone, ICOMOS India, Sri. Veda Kumar Manikonda, Member, ICOMOS India and Sri. Ratish Nanda, CEO, Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKCT) participated in the walk.

Glimpses from the AGM

Photo Credit: GSV Suryanarayana Murthy



Photo Credit: GSV Suryanarayana Murthy



Photo Credit: GSV Suryanarayana Murthy



Photo Credit: GSV Suryanarayana Murthy



Photo Credit: GSV Suryanarayana Murthy



Photo Credit: GSV Suryanarayana Murthy



Photo Credit: GSV Suryanarayana Murthy



Photo Credit: GSV Suryanarayana Murthy



ICOMOS India Annual General Meeting 2023 at MCR HRD Institute of Telangana, Hyderabad

Zone News

EAST ZONE

Orientation Programme on Heritage Conservation and Tourism

16 June 2023

E-Z A district-level exploration of terracotta temples of Bengal has been conducted by the senior member Mr Kamal Banerjee, supported by NSC HD coordinator Mr Bikramjit Chakraborty on 16th June 2023 to find out possibilities to save the hidden treasure of West Bengal. Several villages have covered Paschim Medinipur to develop further strategies to save Bengal's temple heritage.



Photo Credit: Bikramjit Chakraborty

NSC News

NSC SHARED BUILT HERITAGE

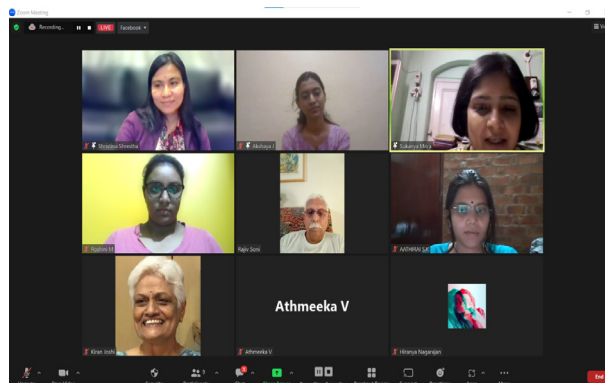
Studying Danish Culture in the Indian Context: A Discussion on the Danish Settlements of Serampore and Tranquebar

NSC-SBH 25 April 2023

NSC SBH organized a discussion on the Danish Settlements of Serampore and Tranquebar on April 25, 2023 to celebrate World Heritage Day. Shristina Shrestha, Conservation Architect spoke on Reviving Serampore, Indo-Danish

Heritage and Akshaya J, Conservation Architect on Syncretic qualities in the built form of Tranquebar.

The vast coastline and abundant supply of spices and wealth in India drew many European countries to establish links through maritime trade. Beginning with the Muslim intrusions in the early medieval period until the gaining of independence from British rule in 1947, there has been evidence of numerous cross-cultural discourses across the country as an effect of invasion, trade, and religion. This is the foundation of the multi-faceted culture of India that is witnessed today. Cultural expression is analogous to architectural expression, which originates from as early as the Indus Valley Civilization in India, where the architecture and inscriptions tell fragments about the history and daily life of its people.



Zoom meeting of the event

Similarly, the architecture of the invaders and traders symbolize the cross-cultural encounters between the foreign and the indigenous, as there is always an act of borrowing and sharing. This amalgamation has led to the emerging of new languages in architecture called "eclecticism" and "syncretism". Their mere occurrence in architecture is the expression and indication of a rich "shared heritage". Serampore and Tranquebar are two sites in India that have witnessed this cross-cultural exchange between the Indian and Danish populations and the architecture of both these places are replete with examples of such shared elements.

The first presentation was by Akshaya J on Tranquebar. The latter not only has a Danish connection but also a British one. Initially a Danish settlement it was sold to the British in 1845 for a small sum and hence the place has elements of Indian, Danish and British influence. Akshaya J began by providing the historical background of Tranquebar. She then went on to explain the socio-cultural life of Tranquebar during the glory days of the Danes including their style of government, religion, language, cuisine, textiles, music, dance etc. She mentioned that after the Tsunami of 2006 efforts were underway to restore the town. She then analysed the layout of the settlement within the walled town. She mentions that Protestant Christianity had an impact on the Danish settlement. Akshaya then explained the interior spaces of everyday dwellings in the Tranquebar settlement such as the Danish churches, Tamil houses etc. and this provided an interesting contrast with Shristina's presentation which was more about grand monuments. Akshaya explained the inner layout of a typical Tamil Hindu dwelling followed by a

Muslim trader’s house and the Governor’s residence on King’s Street. She showed how the climate, local materials and religion impacted the interior designs of each of these buildings. The flooring and walls of the Danish buildings showed how they adapted to the local climate and conditions. She concluded that the Danes were primarily traders and so they did not really try to build grand buildings like the British did. Srishtina Sreshtha spoke about documenting and proposing the repair and reuse of the Goswami Rajbari in Serampore. Srishtina emphasized how the river Hooghly contributed to the trading opportunities provided to the different European powers.

She began with the geographical and historical background of Serampore. It was named Frederiksnagore after the king of Denmark in the 18th century. She went on to speak about the indigenous families of Serampore and how the Danes established themselves there. Srishtina then elaborated on the housing typologies of the area and their layout and materials used such as mud. The Danish Government House in Serampore was analysed followed by the Goswami Rajbari which shows the presence of Danish as well as more indigenous/vernacular elements. Srishtina also spoke about the river bank view of Serampore which showed the European influence. Development of railway link in 1854 also impacted the development of Serampore. The conservation and revival of the history of Serampore since the 2000s was also highlighted by Srishtina which was being undertaken jointly by the Government of India and the National Museum of Denmark. St Olav Church, Government House and the Danish Tavern have been restored while the Goswami Rajbari was still to be conserved. The presentations were followed by a discussion and question answer session. The recording of the event is available [here](#).

Collaborative Activities

EAST ZONE AND EPWG

Launch of ICOMOS India E-Publication on 'Resilient and Sustainable Development of Historic Precincts and Areas

18 April 2023



Photo Credit: Ananya Bhattacharya

E-Z & EPWG Resilient and Sustainable Development of Historic Areas and Precincts: Focus West Bengal” brings together transcripts, keynote addresses and panel discussions, along with papers on the case studies presented in the seven webinars organized by the East Zone and NSC HTV in collaboration with the Emerging Professionals Working Group (EPWG) in 2020. Core organizing and the editorial team included Dr. Sanghamitra Basu, Ananya Bhattacharya, Dr. Arjun Mukerji, Kamalika Bose, Puja Bhowmik, Dr. Sukanya Mitra, and Sukrit Sen. The publication was launched in a commemorative event hosted by the West Bengal Heritage Commission on World Heritage Day (April 18, 2023) at Nandan III Hall in Kolkata. In a presentation titled ‘Integration of Built, Natural and Intangible Heritage of West Bengal’, Dr. Sanghamitra Basu, Dr. Arjun Mukerji and Kamalika Basu shared case studies, insights and recommendations from the publication. Dignitaries present included Chairpersons from WBHC, West Bengal BioDiversity Board, West Bengal Pollution Control Board, British Council Regional Director (East and North East), eminent author Amit Chaudhury, Regional Convenor INTACH, and Secretary ICOMOS India. The publication may be viewed from [here](#).

EREDERIKS NAGORE

SHRISTINA SHRESTHA
Conservation Architect, Kathmandu
Reviving Serampore,
the Indo-Danish Heritage

25 th April, 2023
6:30 - 8:00 PM

শ্রীকামপুর
(SERAMPORE)

**STUDYING DANISH CULTURE
IN THE INDIAN CONTEXT:
A DISCUSSION ON THE DANISH
SETTLEMENTS OF SERAMPORE AND
TRANQUEBAR**

AR. J. AKSHAYA
Architect, Chennai
Syncretic Qualities in the
Built-form of Tranquebar

தரங்கம்பாடி
(HARANGAMBADI)

TRANQUEBAR

ICOMOS INDIA
Council on Monuments and Sites

NSC SBH CELEBRATES WORLD HERITAGE DAY, 2023
REGISTRATION LINK:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81877411111?pwd=ZkZkd0o0q0j0rEhEgHkZsukH8T7vPYQd11W9>

Poster of the event

GLIMPSES FROM THE E-PUBLICATION EVENT



Photo Credit: Ananya Bhattacharya



Photo Credit: Ananya Bhattacharya



Photo Credit: Ananya Bhattacharya



Photo Credit: Ananya Bhattacharya



Photo Credit: Ananya Bhattacharya

NORTH ZONE & SPA, DELHI

Heritage Changes & Lifestyle for Environment

18 April 2023

North Zone, ICOMOS India, celebrated the World Heritage Day by collaborating with the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi by holding a seminar in hybrid mode on “Intergenerational Dialogues on Cultural Approaches”, keeping in view the theme for this year’s World Heritage Day 2023, “Heritage Changes”.

The session was opened by Debasish Nayak, Manish Chakraborty, Ashish Trambadia, Ravi Gundu Rao and Smita Datta Makhija offering their perspectives on the topic. The discourse was centred on Heritage methodologies for climate resilient sustainable development in two sessions.

The first session focused on ‘Traditional Knowledge and Climate Resilience’. Dr Rohit Jigyasu, Shalini Das Gupta and Divaya Gupta cited examples of heritage buildings which provide thermal comfort and energy efficiency thereby impacting the causes for climate change.

The second session focused on a community-based approach towards sustainable development. Samvida Rai, Sandeep Naulaka, Dr. Jyoti Pandey Sharma and Prof. Dr. Meenakshi

Dhote spoke on the topic.

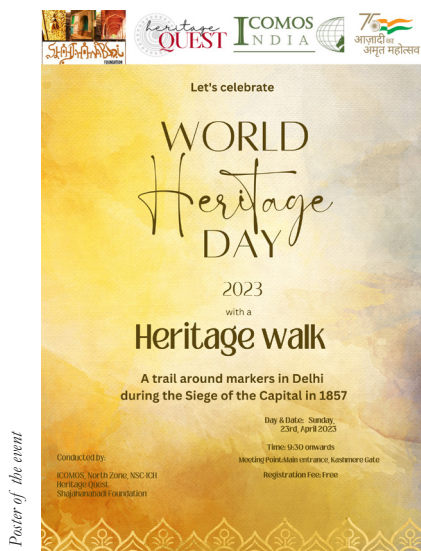
Our senior most member of ICOMOS INDIA, RC Aggarwal who joined ASI in 1947 attended the event in person.

Poster of the event

NORTH ZONE, SHAHJAHANABADI FOUNDATION AND HERITAGE QUEST

Heritage Walk - A Trail around the Markers in Delhi during the Siege of the Capital in 1857

23 April 2023



Poster of the event

ICOMOS India North Zone in collaboration with Shahjahanabadi Foundation and Heritage Quest conducted a heritage walk lead by Abhishek Jain, to highlight the cultural significance of Kashmiri gate of the historic Shahjahanabad wall and the heritage around it in relation to 1857 siege of Delhi by East India company. The walk commenced from Kashmiri gate to Nicholson cemetery and ended at Mutiny Memorial. The lack of sensitivity required to make interventions in historic context was glaringly apparent at the development of the Metro station which abuts the Kashmiri gate, a national level listed monument and has overshadowed it. Young professionals interacted with ICOMOS India members to understand the complexities of making decisions for transformation of fragile historic urban landscapes.



Heritage Walk; Photo Credit: Smita Makhija

NSC CT, NSC HTV & NSC ICH

Connecting the Dots: Season 2

May - June 2023

NSC Cultural Tourism in collaboration with NSC Intangible Cultural Heritage and NSC Historic Towns and Villages organized the event 'Connecting the Dots: Season 2, via the zoom platform. The event consisted of a series of five webinars held in the months of May and June 2023, which saw participants running into hundreds (all 5 webinars combined). Season 1 of the same event was held last year. The overarching theme of all the webinars was "Our Festivals & Responsible Tourism: India and Abroad. The event was also held to celebrate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and 50 years of World Heritage Convention. A total of 16 scholars, ICOMOS and non ICOMOS members participated for 5 Saturdays in these engaging talks. A short report of each webinar is as follows. NSC CT plans to host a Season 3 of Connecting the Dots event in the year 2024 with even more speakers, the likes of ICOMOS members of South Asia.



Poster of the event

Session 1 - East Zone 13 May 2023

The first webinar of the series saw 3 speakers from the east zone. Dr. Madhura Dutta spoke on "Rural Tourism of Bengal, lesser-known village festivals", wherein her presentation was about 'Harnessing the power of folk festivals for responsible Village Tourism'. It's also about empowering local cultural communities, creating multi-cultural awareness, and ensuring well-being of rural creative collectives in West Bengal. Sri Jitu Misra delved into the "Intangible heritage of Indigenous Odisha", with special reference to Bhima, the Mahabharata hero - how he plays a central role as a fertility deity in the culture of Gonds, Kondhs and Bhatra tribes. Ar. Sayantan Maitra Boka talked in depth about "Durga Puja: The Intangible

Cultural Heritage”. He highlighted how the UNESCO tag ‘Intangible Cultural Heritage’ has brought global attention to Durga Puja and presented a special glimpse of previous years’ Durga Puja installations to experience the Durga Puja Art and temporary architecture of the festival and the process of transformation of the city. Recording of the event is available [here](#).

Session 2 - North & North East Zone 20 May 2023

The second webinar of the series saw 3 speakers from the north and north-east zones. Dr. Sanjib Kumar Borkakoti spoke on “Agrarian Festivals in Assam and Responsible Tourism”, wherein he spoke about the various festivals in Assam, namely Bihu, Bwisagu, Junbeel, Porag and Dima to name a few. The second speaker, Sri Dilip Changkakoty discussed in detail, “Buddhist Cultural Tourism in Assam”. Dr. Harveen Bhandari, the third and final speaker, delved into the “Festivals at Shaktipithas of Himachal Pradesh”. Shaktipithas are venerated Hindu temples that symbolize our ancient cultural landscapes. The festivals and traditions followed in these shrines were the topic of discussion. The heritage of temples were discussed through festivals, annual celebrations and daily rituals, through which the significance of pilgrimage to these shrines is enhanced. Recording of the event is available [here](#).

Session 3 - West & Central Zone 27 May 2023

The third webinar of the series saw 3 speakers from the west and central zones. The first speaker, Ar. Yash Gupta spoke on the topic “Jinodhar Practices of Historic Ahmedabad: An Intersection between Tradition, Modernity and Authenticity”. The talk explored the sacred landscape of the Jain community in historic Ahmedabad, which comprises interconnected temples, monasteries, and religious institutions. Ar. Shreamey Phadnis’ topic on “The religious landscape of Parner & Shri Ram Janma Utsav Therein” explored the 250-year-old fortified Shri Ram Mandir temple complex, as well as the religious celebrations and traditions that have been revived by conservation efforts. The final speaker, Ar. Shivani Sharma’s presentation, “Mahashivratri - Association and Celebration at Markanda temple, Gadchiroli, Maharashtra” delved into the nitty-gritties of the celebration of Mahashivratri at the Markanda temple built between the 9th to 12th century C.E. Recording of the event is available [here](#).

Session 4 - South Zone 3 June 2023

The fourth webinar of the series saw 3 speakers from the south zone. Dr. Satyanarayana Dyavanapalli’s presentation on the topic “Tribal Festivals of Telangana” covered aspects about the world’s most congregated tribal fair to commemorate the legendary goddesses Sammakka-Saralamma which takes place biennially in a tribal hamlet Medaram in Tadvai mandal

of Mulugu district of Telangana, India. Ar. Nandhini V., spoke on “Women: A Celebration of Kerala”, wherein she focussed on describing the various women centric festivals celebrated in Kerala. Myths, rituals, food and art forms related to these festivals and their significance in the current trends were also touched upon by the speaker. Ar. Roshini M.’s talk on “Festivals in Rural and Urban Context: A Case of Belur’s Brahmotsava and Bengaluru’s Karaga” explored two significant festivals set in two different contexts in the state of Karnataka. Recording of the event is available [here](#).

Session 5 - Beyond India & Reflections 10 June 2023

The theme of the final webinar was “Celebrating Cultural Heritage: Traditional Festivals in Cambodia and India”. In Cambodia, the traditional festivals are rooted in the country’s Hindu and Buddhist cultures. The transfer of knowledge and the Indianization of the region is reflected in various aspects of Cambodian life, culture, art, and architecture. The session took an overview of the festivals in the Angkor region influenced – directly or indirectly – by the Indian culture, especially from the Dravida region. The main speaker was Dr. Ujjwala Anand Palasuley. There were three panel members, which included Dr. Mrinalini Atrey, Dr. Niyati Jigyasu and Ar. Madhu Vottery. Recording of the event is available [here](#).

NSC THEOPHILOS, NSC CULTURAL LANDSCAPES, NSC EDUCATION AND TRAINING, NSC LAFI AND SOUTH ZONE

New Education and Management for Responsible Conservation in India

20 May 2023

A roundtable discussion was organized by NSC Theophilos in collaboration with NSC CL, NSC TC, NSC LAFI and South Zone, ICOMOS India on the theme of “New Education and Management for Responsible Conservation in India. It attempted to articulate the dimensions of operationalizing, that is - from Theory to Action through education with equal rights to all. It is expected that the approach may broaden the horizons of and lead to interdisciplinary methods in the new curriculum.

Prof. Nalini’s session highlighted various aspects, which are as follows: - In the past we have encountered significant challenges within the existing management system, leading to chaos and unmanageable contexts. During a recent session, you learned that your new nomination has been sent to UNESCO as a natural site, but uncertainty surrounds its authenticity. This situation highlights the

need for transformative change - a fresh approach to management and education. As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention, the focus now shifts to the next 50 years. India must learn how to effectively manage its complex heritage resources and sites. This endeavor presents an opportunity for reflection and innovation, especially within the e-commerce sector. A new paradigm is essential to navigate this dynamic landscape and ensure sustainable stewardship of our cultural and natural heritage. Recording of the event is available [here](#).

NSC Theophilos, in collaboration with
NSC Cultural Landscapes,
NSC Education and Training,
NSC LAFI with ICOMOS India South Zone

ICOMOS INDIA

New Education and Management for Responsible Conservation in India
with focus on the integral aspects of cultural landscape, geography, and Community within the contemporary Indian Context

A round table discussion is planned as part of Theophilos plan for 2022-23 shall conclude with this event focusing on the operationalising and mainstreaming the new paradigm required with "New Education and Management" for Responsible Conservation in India. This session shall have a round table discussion on critical components of conservation education that are relevant and unique for the Indian context and Indian traditional systems. ICOMOS Members with teaching experience, shall present on relevant themes such as cultural landscape, documentation etc that link to conservation to enhance and broaden into interdisciplinary or critical subjects in the curriculum.

2.00 to 5.00 PM
Date: 20th May 2023

Panelists:

 Shalini Das Gupta Secretary, ICOMOS India	 Prof. Nalini M Thakur Coordinator NSC Theophilos	 T. Lakshmi Priya Theophilos member	 Dr. Vishakha Kawathekar Coordinator NSC LAFI	 Navin Piplani President, ICOMOS India
 Prof. Rana Singh Coordinator Cultural Landscapes	 Surya Narayana Murthy NSC LAFI Focal Point	 Prof. Vaishali Latkar Coordinator NSC	 Prof. Jigna Desai Member Theophilos	 Arun Menon NSC Coordinator

Registration Link:
<https://shorturl.at/CDMP1>

Poster of the event

The roundtable was opened by ICOMOS India Secretary Shalini Das Gupta. President. Prof. Nalini M Thakur spoke about New Education for Conservation Education from a holistic and cultural perspective – An implemented Case. Prof. Vishakha Kawathekar discussed the New Education challenge to ensure sustainability and authenticity in management. President ICOMOS India - Navin Piplani spoke about Role and place of Traditional Knowledge and Systems in Conservation education. Prof. Rana P B Singh discussed Interpretation of "Indian Cultural Landscape" for conservation education. Ar. Surya Narayana Murthy spoke about Documentation, the range, contents, and contents for conservation education. Prof. Vaishali Latkar discussed Traditional settlement research and its interface with planning. Prof. Jigna Desai presented the case - Planning Challenges on 'Real Historic city ground' - CEPT Ahmedabad Experience. Prof. Arun Menon spoke about the Traditional Engineering knowledge as an essential in New Education. The session was moderated by Prof. Lakshmi Priya, and assisted by Dr Monalisa Bhardwaj.

New Paradigm Management for conservation education & real grounded actions toward for Sustainability

27 May 2023

Marking India's 75th year of Indian Independence, and 50th year of the World Heritage Convention, this webinar series deliberated on the crucial need for introspection in heritage studies and conservation. The series aimed to define a new philosophical base for conservation, emphasizing a holistic Indian perspective. Recognizing the uniqueness of Indian heritage, it advocated for different research, action, and knowledge management approaches. Encouraging an interdisciplinary lens, the discussion delved into the meaning and significance of culture at various levels, emphasizing the historical interplay between nature and culture in shaping India's cultural landscape. Highlighting heritage as a living tradition, the series challenged the Western dominance in heritage studies and the limited scope of "authorized heritage." It aimed to develop new paradigms by fostering dialogue, exploring alternative methodologies, and engaging young professionals. Ultimately, the series envisioned India as a non-Western paradigm, contributing to a broader understanding of conservation on a global scale. The focus, key ideas and other aspects of this series have been elaborated below. The recording of the event is available [here](#).

Registration Link:
<https://shorturl.at/CDMP1>

NSC Theophilos, in collaboration with
NSC Cultural Landscapes,
NSC Education and Training,
NSC LAFI with ICOMOS India South Zone

ICOMOS INDIA

New Paradigm Management for Conservation Education and Real Grounded Actions Towards for Sustainability

We have commenced viewing the period comprising the Next 50 Years of the World Heritage Convention '72. The event is visualised as a "Round Table" discussion that attempts to articulate the dimensions of "Operationalization" - i.e from theory to action through education with equal rights to all. It is believed that this method has great relevance for conservation education and profession.

Panelists: **2.00 to 5.00 PM** Date: 27th May 2023

 Prof. Monalisa Bhardwaj	 Dr. Raema Hooja NSC Coordinator	 Prof. Nalini M Thakur Coordinator NSC Theophilos	 T. Lakshmi Priya Theophilos member
 Prof. Rana Singh Coordinator Cultural Landscapes	 Dr. Vishakha Kawathekar Coordinator NSC LAFI	 Shalini Das Gupta Secretary, ICOMOS India	 Prof. Jigna Desai Member Theophilos
 Prof. Sonal Mithal Executive Chair, Heritage Education & Regeneration, CEPT	 Arun Menon NSC Coordinator	 Navin Piplani President, ICOMOS India	 Surya Narayana Murthy South Zone Focal Point

Poster of the event

Focus:

1. Defining a new philosophical base for conservation with a holistic Indian perspective.
2. Recognizing Indian heritage as a unique system requiring different approaches to research, action, and knowledge management.
3. Encouraging an interdisciplinary approach to understanding and managing heritage.

Key Ideas:

1. Culture as a central concept: The discussion explores the meaning and significance of culture at various levels (micro and macro).
2. Nature-culture connection: Professor Rana

emphasizes the historical interplay between nature and culture in shaping India's cultural landscape.

- Heritage as a living tradition: This perspective emphasizes continuity, transformation, and transmission of heritage to future generations.

Challenges:

- Western dominance in heritage studies: The traditional focus on Western methodologies and perspectives needs to be challenged.
- Limited scope of "authorized heritage": Expanding the definition of heritage beyond grand, prestigious sites to include marginalized voices and perspectives.

Looking Forward:

- Developing new paradigms: The webinar series aims to foster dialogue, explore alternative methodologies, and engage young professionals in shaping the future of heritage studies in India.
- India as a non-Western paradigm: The potential for India's unique heritage to contribute to a broader understanding of conservation on a global scale.

The speakers in the session included - Prof. Nalini Thakur, Dr. Rima Hooja, Dr. Arun Menon, Prof. Rana P. B. Singh, Prof. Vishakha Kwatrekar, Prof. Jigna Desai, Prof. Sonal Mittal, Ar. Surya Narayan Murthy, Shalini Dasgupta, Dr. Navin Pipalni and Prof. Arun Menon.

Members' Corner

ANANYA BHATTACHARYA

Presentation by ICOMOS at the G20 Culture Working Group Thematic Webinar #2

13 April 2023



Under the Indian Presidency of the G20, in the framework of the G20 Culture Working Group (CSW), together with UNESCO as a Knowledge Partner, four Global Thematic Webinars were held from March 2023 to April 2023.

The second Thematic Webinar with the focus on "Harnessing Living Heritage for a Sustainable Future", was held on 13 April 2023 from 9:00am - 5:00pm. This webinar saw one of ICOMOS India's members, Ms. Ananya Bhattacharya, who is also a Member of ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Cultural Tourism and ICOMOS Working Group on the SDGs, speaking on behalf of International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS).



A summary of her presentation is as follows:

Safeguarding Living Heritage

- Include in skill development programs to build ecosystems

to transfer skills and knowledge from generation to generation; build capacity to use emerging technologies and access the digital sphere sustainably.

- Develop legal and regulatory frameworks, governance mechanisms supporting responsible, ethical, equitable, inclusive and fair governance and access of natural and cultural heritage commons; ensure cultural bearers are in control of processes for managing, accessing and commercialization of their heritage
- Fund research with community participation to explore use of traditional knowledge, materials, skills and practices to address developmental challenges including impact (economic and non economic aspects) and mitigation of climate change. Integrate living heritage in actions to tackle the climate crisis at scale and mainstream into climate change policy frameworks.
- Support artist mobility, strengthen social security, recognise the right to cultural space and practice at all times.
- Strengthen the advocacy for culture to be a fourth dimension of sustainable development and identify relevant targets and indicators for different SDGs using a cross cutting approach (climate change, poverty alleviation, gender, decent work, social inclusion etc).

Recording of the webinar is available [here](#).

The document may be accessed through this link:- <https://www.southsouth-galaxy.org/publications/experiences-and-practices-on-inclusive-sustainable-tourism-in-cities-and-localities-in-the-context-of-south-south-and-triangular-cooperation/>

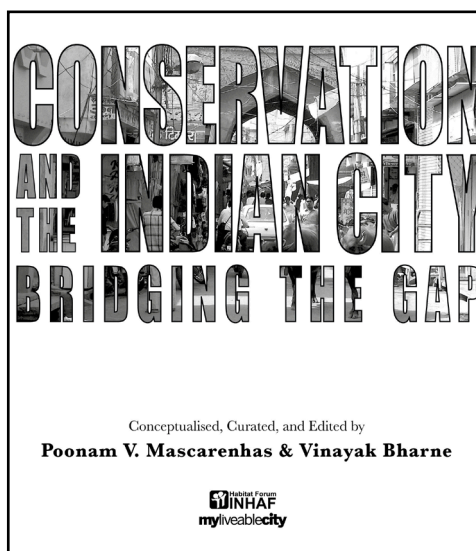


Poster of the event

POONAM V. MASCARENHAS

Book Publication & Virtual Release

April 2023



Book Cover

ICOMOS India member, Poonam V. Mascarenhas along with Vinayak Bharne, conceptualised, curated and edited the book titled, Conservation and the Indian City_ Bridging the Gap, which was virtually published in April 2023. details of the book are as follows

Foreword by: Gustavo Araoz, (Honorary President of ICOMOS)

Published by: INHAF and myliveablecity

Navin Piplani(former president ICOMOS India), along with other dignitaries attending the event in person; Photo Credit: Ananya Bhattacharya



MADHU VOTTERY

Talk and Case Study Publication

18 April 2023

ICOMOS India member, ICTC Expert Member and NSC CT Coordinator, Ar. Madhu Vottery was a keynote speaker at the event held by ICFAI School of Architecture to celebrate International Day of Monuments and Sites wherein she spoke on the topic 'Learning SDGs Through Historic Architecture and Nature Culture Connect'.

Ar. Madhu Vottery is also honoured to share with our esteemed members that she was part of a case study of Hyderabad on Inclusive Sustainable Tourism, and this case study is now a part of the UNESCO document on Experiences and Practices on Inclusive Sustainable Tourism in Cities and Localities in the Context of South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

About the Book: This volume assesses the contemporary condition of heritage and conservation in India from three perspectives – that of the monument and building; the city and its ecological context; and the last one being the broader policy frameworks. This enables conservation regardless of scale. To what degree does twentieth-century Modern architectural heritage in India actually impact daily urban life? Why are there unforeseen consequences of World Heritage Site designations on Indian towns and cities? Is there real potential for participatory conservation planning in the world's largest democracy? Gathering an impressive group of multifaceted individuals – architects, conservationists, planners, urban designers, engineers, activists, educators, practitioners – this book clarifies the successes and shortcomings of conservation practice in India today. It also offers tactics and strategies to bridge the extant social, political, and cultural gaps. This volume will be of interest to anyone seeking to understand the complex relationships between the contemporary city, conservation, and ecological-, cultural-, and built-heritage, whether in India or beyond.

Authors/ Discussants: Gustavo Araoz . Amita Baig . Sanghamitra Basu . Vinayak Bharne. Manish Chalana. Jigna Desai. Aarti Grover . Divay Gupta . Shikha Jain . Rohit Jigyasu . Kiran Kalamdani . Malini Krishnankutty . Annabel Mascarenhas Lopez . Susan Macdonald . Poonam Verma Mascarenhas . Sangeeta Bagga Mehta . Arun Menon . Ratish Nanda . Heta Pandit . Shubhra Raje . Ravindra Gundu Rao . K.T. Ravindran . Dennis Rodwell . Kirtee Shah . Alpa Sheth. Rana P.B. Singh . Brinda Somaya . Riyaz Tayyibji . Ashley De Vos . Kai Weise

“Many of us from other countries consider the heritage of India as a very precious gift to all humanity. India has been blessed by an infinite variety of landscapes enriched by extraordinary architectural and urban achievements through many centuries, with the intermingling of powerful cultures. This blessing, however, comes with the price of a never-ending search for better tools in conservation: better legislation, better inventories, better regulations, better institutions, better incentives; a meaningful and better life for all Indians. The discussions in this book instigate just such a search.” Gustavo Araoz, Honorary President of ICOMOS (from the book's foreword)

Links to book review:

- <https://architecture.live/artes-roots-on-conservation-and-the-indian-city/>
- <https://ihbconline.co.uk/context/178/58/> in Context issue 178, December 2023

Book is available at: <https://www.myliveablecity.com/book/list>

RAVI CHANDRA MALLADI

Research Article on Production of nanolime using traditional approaches of using plant extracts towards conservation of heritage structures

April 2023

ICOMOS India member, Mr. Ravi Chandra Malladi and Dr Thirumalini Selvaraj published their research article in the Journal of cleaner production - Elsevier which investigates an effective, economical, and sustainable approach for synthesizing nanolimes using hydraulic lime and natural plant extracts. Nanolimes have shown promise as efficient consolidants for preserving historic buildings and heritage sites. In this study, we fermented lime with aqueous organic plant extracts for 14 days to produce nanolime materials.

Analysis identified key alcohol fermentation byproducts that aid nanoscale dispersion of portlandite particles. The nanolimes displayed narrow size distribution from 130-290nm after 7 days, enabling deeper penetration into surface layers for enhanced structure conservation. X-ray diffraction confirmed the presence of portlandite and calcite nanoparticles, facilitating pore-filling beyond the capabilities of nano-portlandite alone. Additionally, biomineralization during fermentation formed carbonate compounds from 0.4-50nm in size. This allows effective filling of nanopores under 100nm, ultimately improving durability. Our sustainable biosynthetic route highlights the importance of nanotechnology for heritage structure preservation.

This bio-inspired nanolime synthesis technique offers an eco-friendly and cost-effective method for conserving our tangible heritage. Further research can optimize the process and explore real-world applications.

Brief Bio: Ravi Chandra Malladi, Research scholar focused on the conservation and restoration of heritage structures predominantly built with lime mortar. His primary research includes investigating ancient technologies and biomineralization processes in organic lime mortars and developing sustainable building materials for carbon capture and utilization in modern construction practices. Expertise in the characterization and analysis of lime-based construction materials.

RUCHITA BELAPURKAR

Strengthening Capacities of World Heritage Professionals for Cultural Sites in the Central, Eastern, South Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regions Workshop

8 to 12 May 2023



Ruchita at the event



Snippets from the event, Photo Credits: Ruchita Belapurkar

ICOMOS India member Ruchita Belapurkar had the opportunity to attend the workshop on Strengthening Capacities of World Heritage Professionals for Cultural Sites in the Central, Eastern, South Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regions.

It was organized by ICOMOS Azerbaijan, State Tourism Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan. It was an excellent experience which improved her understanding of the World Heritage application process along with the challenges and opportunities associated with World Heritage Documentation and Nomination Process.

It also gave her the opportunity to interact with several professionals from the region who were working on numerous exciting projects through their case studies.



Photo Credit: Ruchita Belapurkar

We look forward to your valued and continued support.

Follow us for more updates on the forthcoming ICOMOS India newsletter.

HAPPY READING



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Akanksha Malik Parashar, Research Intern
Shriya Rajwade, EPWG



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