

COMOS

COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS & SITES, INDIA

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020



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COMOS

ANNUAL REPORT

2019-2020



Ramappa Temple, Palampet, Telangana. Image Source: Anil Agarwal



*Panayakkattu Bhagavathy Theyyam performance during the Kaliyaatta Mahotsavam,
Kankol Sree Kalari Bhagavathy Temple, Kannur district, Kerala.
Image Source: Ar. Anjali A*

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Natyamandapa inside the Koothamabalm, Thirumoozhikullam Lakshmana Temple, Cochin, Kerala. Image Source: Ar. Gayathri Unnikrishnan

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



KIRAN JOSHI

President - COMOS India

Dear Colleagues

It has been a pleasure to have been part of COMOS India's Executive Committee over the past year, actively engaging with the Society's many ventures, learning with each passing day. Our many collective achievements over 2019-2020 are presented in this Annual Report, structured to reflect COMOS' objectives and concerns. I shall try to highlight some key achievements as well as the challenges that lie ahead.

The strength of an voluntary organisation such as COMOS India, which aims to engage with the many forms of cultural heritage of India, lies in its membership. The quantum jump in our total members from 243 to 354, the launch of the North-east Zone and, introduction of a wider range of professional diversity in the membership are, thus, some of the topmost achievements of 2019-2020. However, as several of the states and many subject areas are absent or under-represented, much more work is required towards removing the imbalances and enriching the heritage narrative, within India and the broader conservation field.

The 'Membership Analysis' indicates a strong link with the year's focus on achieving greater rigour in scientific activity, forging institutional alliances and, conducting outreach programmes. The high standards followed by organisers and participants of the Scientific Symposium of 2019 and 2020, the National Scientific Conclave 2019 and, celebrations of 'Heritage Days' in April and November, and their proactive response to complex local, regional and national heritage concerns augurs well for the future of COMOS India. I take this opportunity to extend my personal appreciation to all the Zonal Representatives and others in the Executive Committee, the National Scientific Counselor, all coordinators of National Scientific Committees and Working Groups and many other members without whose commitment such benchmarks could not have been set. A special mention needs to be made of our 'Emerging Professionals Working Group,' whose enthusiasm, commitment and new skill sets have made them indispensable. COMOS India now needs to concentrate on increasing our members' representation within International Scientific Committees and Working Groups.

On the occasion of the Annual General Meeting on 12th June 2020, being held online, I take this opportunity to also wish all members of the COMOS India family a stimulating time during the coming year, hoping that their synergy would bring many more occasions for creative exchanges and constructive collaborations, maintaining the inclusive spirit and credibility of our Memorandum of Association.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kiran Joshi". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Kiran Joshi
President, COMOS India



Padmanabhapuram Palace, Kalkulam, Tamil Nadu. Image source: Kiran Joshi

NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY



SHALINI DASGUPTA
Secretary - COMOS India

Dear Members,

It gives me great pleasure to co-present along with the outgoing President, Prof. Kiran Joshi, the Annual Report of COMOS India activities for the year 2019-2020. The Annual report presents the variety of efforts taken by members to promote COMOS India agenda and fulfil its vision. It puts forth our many accomplishments possible only because of the integrated nature of our organisation which brings all people concerned about Heritage matters together on one platform.

In today's COVID Pandemic times, Conservation of Heritage faces massive challenges. The far reaching network of COMOS India, which spreads through its six zones in all corners of the country, becomes even more relevant. Every member of COMOS India is a Heritage Warrior in his town/ city/ zone / state. The membership is the actual strength of COMOS India which has been growing with every passing year. It has been our endeavour to empower the membership to undertake activities related to Cultural Heritage in their area of interest through the well established network of various National Scientific Committees. We have been trying to facilitate and enable scientific dialogue among the members of our fraternity so as to contribute towards the larger interest of safeguarding our Country's heritage.

I thank all the members of COMOS India for their support and welcome the newly formed young professionals group, The EPWG - Emerging professionals Working Group. Our Young Professionals and Colleagues bring fresh ideas and energy within the organisation and we hope will also help us take COMOS India to greater heights.

I would like to express thanks to all Executive Committee members who have been tirelessly contributing voluntary time, energy and resources towards a lot of unseen backend regular work to run this organisation.

Lets put our thoughts and energies together to make COMOS India's presence felt globally.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shalini". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined.

Shalini Dasgupta
Secretary, COMOS India



Victoria Jubilee Town Hall, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. Image Source: Kiran Joshi



PART ONE

***COMOS INDIA
AND ITS
EXPANDING
NETWORK***



Vijaya Vittala Temple gateway, Vittalapura, Hampi, Karnataka. Image Source: Samhitha Polamuri

ABOUT COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS & SITES

COMOS India, registered as 'Council on Monuments & Sites', is a platform for multidisciplinary experts to dialogue, develop and advocate for appropriate mechanisms, policies, frameworks relating to India's diverse heritage. It strives to establish good benchmarks of professionalism. This platform is linked at the regional and international level with complementary ICOMOS committees and brings to these platforms the Indian viewpoint arising from our contextual issues and solutions found therein (both theory and in practice) while also learning from international experiences.

As a membership based society, COMOS helps dissemination of information among its members about international events and programs and, provides opportunities for its members to participate in such events. The aim of this exchange is capacity building and to contribute to promoting good practices. It serves as a neutral overseer to ensure that heritage protection and conservation moves in tandem with development.

COMOS India functions at four levels, at the National level while it works with Central Government Ministries and national institutions; at the Sub Regional level as it works with State Government bodies such as the Department of Archaeology, Public Works Department, Cultural Academies, Zonal Cultural Centers, Universities and further, with Urban and Rural Local bodies NGOs; at the Regional level as it partners with SAARC countries through their ICOMOS National Committees and, at the International Level with the International ICOMOS community.

The society shall serve as a forum for discussion and for the exchange of information on matters of principle, and of technical, legal and administrative practice, affecting the conservation, restoration, rehabilitation and enhancement of monuments, sites and groups of buildings and historic landscapes for the benefit of the general public. It shall communicate with ICOMOS to understand global approaches, practices and trends in the field and present national perspectives on the same.

COMOS OBJECTIVES

1 *Establish National Scientific Committees*

The Society will encourage the establishment of National Scientific Committees to promote research in specific themes related to the conservation, rehabilitation and enhancement of cultural heritage sites and disseminate the research to the general public.

2 *World Heritage*

The Society will advise the Government on World Heritage nomination, periodic monitoring, including the conservation and management frameworks for World Heritage Sites for the benefit of the general public.

3 *Regional Cooperation*

The Society will seek to promote greater regional co-operation within the SAARC territories to promote greater understanding and regional exchange in the heritage field and to guarantee the generational renewal of all heritage professionals in the region for the benefit of the general public.

4 *Advisory Role in the Field of Heritage Conservation*

The Society shall perform an advisory role to various Government institutions on policy matters in the field of heritage conservation.

5 *Awareness and Capacity Building for Young Professionals*

In addition to the above, the Society will facilitate, through its expert members, capacity building and professional training programmes for young professionals.

6 *Heritage Education*

It shall promote a better understanding of the country's diverse multi-cultural heritage sites among the university and school children through regular awareness workshops and programmes

7 *Seminars, Conferences, Discussions, Exhibitions*

The Society shall organize regular seminars, meetings, conferences and exhibitions at the regional and national level to discuss heritage issues relevant to the Society's mandate so that the general public is benefited.

8 *Partnership with Community Based Village Bodies and Institutions*

The society shall work at the rural level in developing capacities of community based village bodies and institutions to manage, preserve, rehabilitate and enhance their heritage by providing access to technical expertise and resources. It shall serve to mainstream heritage concerns at the village level with decision making bodies at the district, state and central administration.

9 *Promote Traditional Building Crafts Skills*

The Society shall engage with traditional building crafts persons to document traditional building crafts skills and knowledge systems as well as promote and preserve such skills through the organization of regular workshops, training programmes.

10 *Collaboration with Urban Civic Bodies and Administration*

At the Urban level, the Society will work with municipalities and urban governance in promoting the preservation, rehabilitation and enhancement of historic centres and monuments by providing technical expertise. It shall work closely with urban civic bodies and administration as well as communities living in and around historic centres on issues of urban heritage conservation.

OVERVIEW : 2017-2020

The present Executive Committee completed its three year term (2017-2020) with the announcement of Elections of new Executive Committee in March 2020. This term has been a fulfilling time with a multitude of activities at various levels from International General Assembly to National Annual General Meetings, Zonal activities, Scientific Symposiums & Conclaves.

The Executive Committee during the term witnessed certain number of changes in positions. The President's post saw contributions from three Conservation Professionals of repute - Dr. Rohit Jigyasu (June 2017 - January 2019); Ms. Gurmeet Rai, Vice President, took on the role of Officiating President (Jan. 2019 - June 2019) till the elections for the post of President were held in June 2019 wherein Prof. Kiran Joshi was elected and took on the mantle of Presidentship. (June 2019 - May 2020). Ms. Vanicka Arora, the previous Treasurer, resigned in February 2018 and passed on the mantle to Ms. Aishwarya Tipnis. Ms. Tipnis undertook the task of streamlining accounts during her tenure from February 2018 to June 2019. The elections in June 2019 elected Ms. Sangeeta Bais to take on the mantle of Treasurer (June 2019 - May 2020). Ms. Urvashi Srivastava, managed the Secretariat from June 2017, resigned from the post of Secretary in July 2019 which was taken over by Ms. Shalini Dasgupta. The North Zone Representative changed from Ms. Shalini Dasgupta (June 2017- July 2019) to Ms. Radhika Dhumal (July 2019- May 2020). Mr. Pankaj Modi, South Zone representative from 2017, resigned in 2018 handing over the Zone to Mr. GSV Surya Narayana Murthy. The Central Zone passed the zonal mantle from Prof. Ajay Khare (2017-18) to Mr. Navneet Raman (2018-19) and thereafter to Dr. Sarvesh Kumar (2019-2020). The National Scientific Committee, NSC Counsellor saw contributions from reputed Conservation Professionals - Mr. Navin Piplani, Dr. Shikha Jain, Prof. Kiran Joshi and Dr. Jigna Desai.

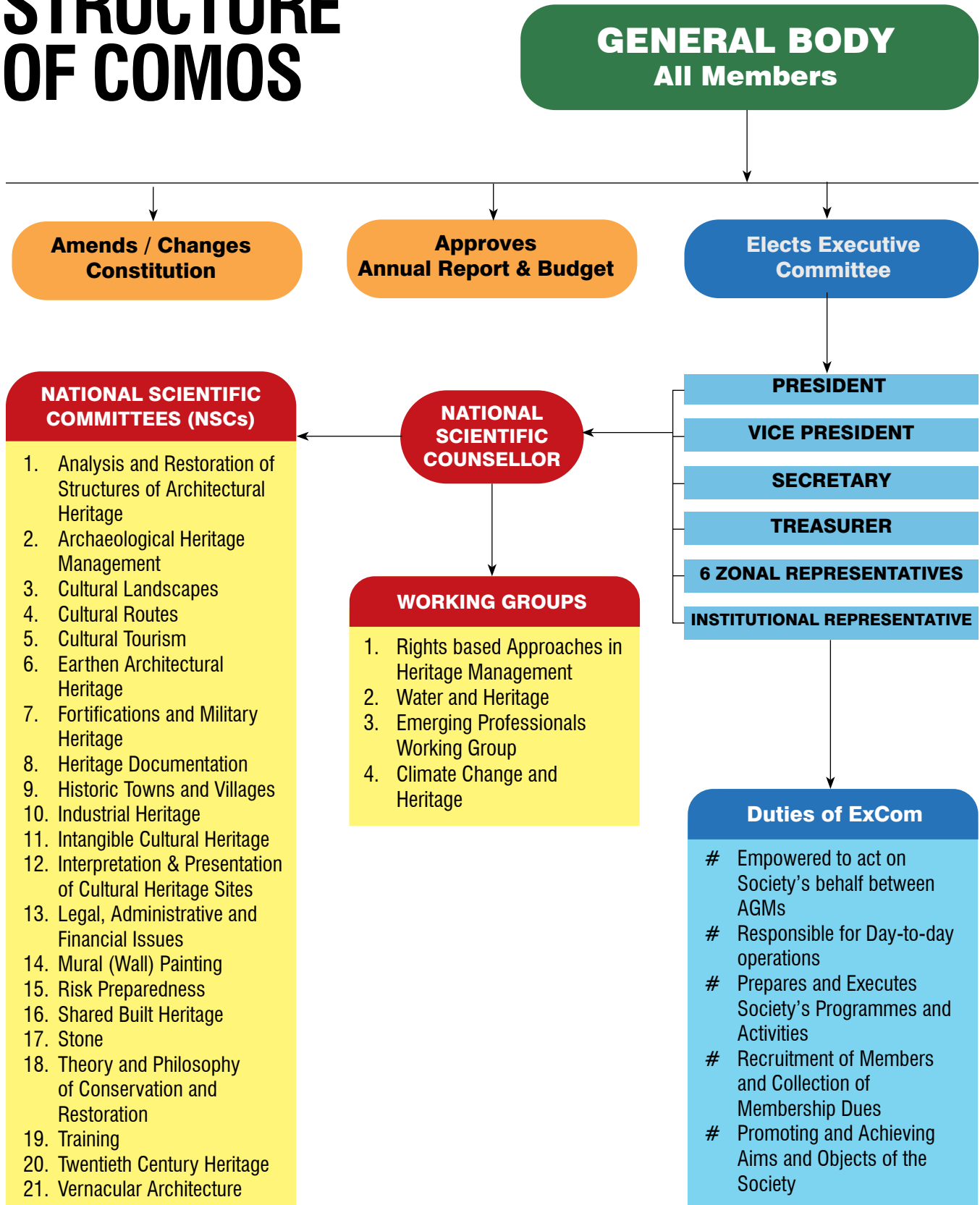
In retrospect, the above changes happened frequently within the three year term. Before the GA, the operations of COMOS were simple and straightforward, but post GA the complexities increased, challenges mounted and the Secretariat required more time than most people had committed for. Today running COMOS India office is a full time commitment.

The Year of 2017 went mostly into planning and organisation of the 19th Triennial General Assembly and Scientific Symposium of ICOMOS held in New Delhi in December 2017. This event was held for the first time in India and third time in Asia, and was attended by over 1000 participants and guests from 113 countries, with the representation of 65 ICOMOS National Committees. The event helped garner relationships with the national and the state governments as well as academic institutions. The intense and highly stimulating discussions and discourses led to an important declaration being adopted by ICOMOS called 'Delhi Declaration on Heritage and Democracy (2017)'. The Delhi Declaration went on to become the backbone of most future scientific works which were undertaken by COMOS India.

The Year 2018, post the General assembly went on in assimilating accounts and activities and post GA follow ups of all related liabilities. The Scientific Symposium was held in Ahmedabad and the AGM in New Delhi in June along with the NSC Conclave in September. The funds raised during the General Assembly gave the opportunity to COMOS India for the first time to award seed funding for two collaborative National Scientific Committee (NSC) Research Projects. The seed funding of INR 25,000 was awarded to eight participating NSCs. Another important task undertaken was formulation of Standard Operating Procedure and Guidelines (SOPG) for COMOS India.

The Year 2019 was a year full of activities. The AGM along with the Scientific Symposium was held in Varanasi in June 2019 along with the elections for all vacant posts. The NSC Conclave was hosted by KRIVIA in Mumbai in Oct 2019. Several Institutional MOU's were signed, many Working Groups were formed and NSC activities promoted. The SOPG was adopted at the AGM and a new Strategic Plan was formulated to charter future path and vision for the working of COMOS India. Many Zonal activities were organised in partnership with COMOS India Institutional members. A detailed report of all activities and event of the year 2019-2020 is elaborated further within the report.

STRUCTURE OF COMOS



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



KIRAN JOSHI

President



GURMEET RAI

Vice President



SHALINI DASGUPTA

Secretary



SANGEETA BAIS

Treasurer



RADHIKA DHUMAL

North Zone Representative



SARVESH KUMAR

Central Zone Representative



ANANYA BHATTACHARYA

East Zone Representative



GSV SURYANARAYANA MURTHY

South Zone Representative



POONAM TRAMBADIA

West Zone Representative



SRISHTI INSTITUTE OF ART, DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Institutional Representative

NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES



JIGNA DESAI,
*National Scientific
Counsellor*

COMOS-India has established 21 National Scientific Committees (NSCs) to represent its concerns of cultural heritage conservation, to serve diverse professional interests of its nationwide members, to share knowledge amongst them and, to foster a multi-disciplinary approach to heritage management. Each National Scientific Committee is connected to the corresponding International Committee of ICOMOS. NSCs are established and, operate according to the Statutes of COMOS and, are legally and financially accountable to the Executive Committee of COMOS-India. The NSCs function through the National Scientific Counsellor, who is responsible for monitoring the activities and programs of the National Scientific Committees and, for providing advice and guidance where necessary. All members of COMOS-India can join any two NSCs of their choice. A minimum of 8 members must subscribe for the establishment and continuance of the NSC

WORKING GROUPS



Ritika Khanna
*Emerging Professional's
Working Group (EPWG)*



Amit Tandon & Priyanka Singh
*Water & Heritage
Working Group*



Gurmeet Rai
*Rights based Approach
Working Group*



Shalini Dasgupta
*Climate Change & Heritage
Working Group*

ICOMOS is reflecting on its doctrinal input and good practices on topical themes involving the conservation of cultural heritage. To this end, ICOMOS has set up working groups comprising various ICOMOS members and heritage professionals: architects, archaeologists, professors, researchers and scientists. The outcomes of these groups can be the drafting of a charter as well as the implementation of practical activities (working sessions, workshops).¹

The various active working groups of ICOMOS are RBA WG, WG on Indigenous Heritage, Sustainable Development WG, Emerging Professionals WG, Syria/Iraq WG, Climate Change WG.

The Working Groups in India represent the National perspective within the International scenario. The prominent working groups of COMOS India are RBA WG, Water & Heritage WG, Emerging Professionals WG and Climate Change & Heritage WG.

¹ <https://www.icomos.org/en/what-we-do/disseminating-knowledge/icomos-working-groups>

**Arun Menon**

*Analysis and Restoration of
Structures of Architectural
Heritage
(NSC-ARSAH)*

**Rana P.B. Singh**

*Cultural Landscapes
ICOMOS-IFLA
(NSC-CL)*

**Geetika Kalha**

*Archaeological Heritage
Management
(NSC-AHM)*

**Ridhima Bajaj**

*Cultural Routes
(NSC-CR)*

**Madhu Vottery**

*Cultural Tourism
(NSC-CT)*

**Aishwarya Das**

*Interpretation and
Presentation of Cultural
Heritage Sites
(NSC-IP)*

**Mrinalini Atrey**

*Intangible Cultural
Heritage
(NSC-ICH)*

**Nitin Ranveer Sinha**

*Legal, Administrative and
Financial Issues
(NSC-LAFI)*

**Vaishali Prasad Latkar**

*Training Committee
(NSC-TC)*

**Annabel Lopez**

*Vernacular Architecture
(NSC-VA)*

**Sanjay Dhar**

*Earthen Architectural
Heritage
(NSC-EAH)*

**Ashish Trambadia**

*Fortifications and Military
Heritage
(NSC-Fort)*

**Bikramjit Chakraborty**

*Heritage Documentation
(NSC-HD)*

**Sanghamitra Basu**

*Historic Towns and Villages
(NSC-HTV)*

**Moulshri Joshi**

*Industrial Heritage
(NSC-IH)*

**Poonam Verma
Mascarenhas**

*Risk Preparedness
(NSC-RP)*

**Shilpa Jain**

*Shared Built Heritage
(NSC-SBH)*

**Sangeeta Bagga**

*20th Century Heritage
(NSC-20C)*

**Nalini Madhav Thakur**

*Theory and Philosophy
of Conservation and
Restoration
(NSC-THEOPHIL)*

**Sharayu More (Interim)**

*Stone Conservation
(NSC-SC)*

- 76 Individual Members
- 18 Young Professional Members
- 30 Associate Members
- 01 Student Members
- 03 Institutional Members
- 00 Sustaining Member

Zonal Distribution of COMOS Members

- 49 Individual Members
- 27 Young Professional Members
- 20 Associate Members
- 01 Student Members
- 01 Institutional Members
- 00 Sustaining Member

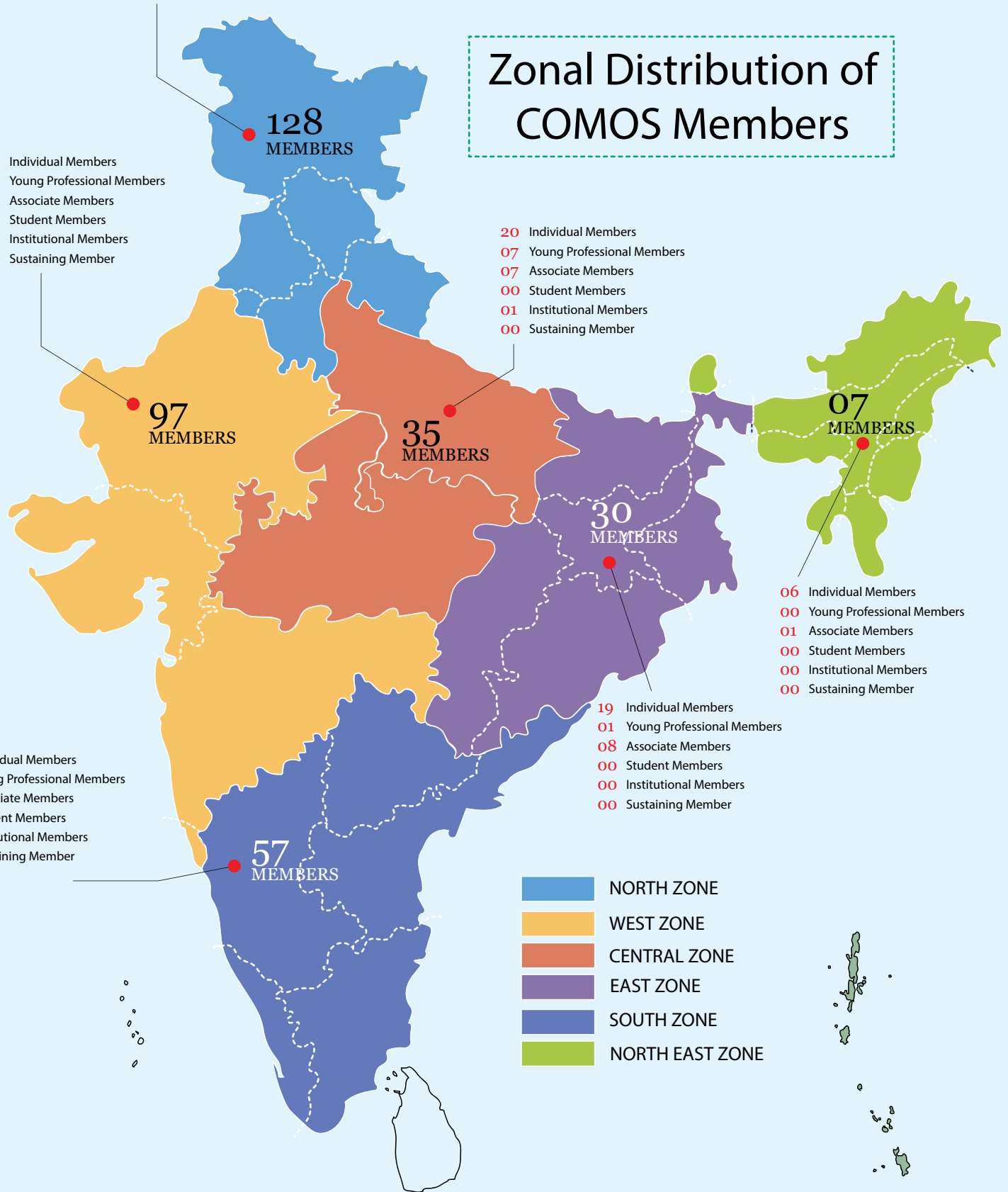
- 20 Individual Members
- 07 Young Professional Members
- 07 Associate Members
- 00 Student Members
- 01 Institutional Members
- 00 Sustaining Member

- 06 Individual Members
- 00 Young Professional Members
- 01 Associate Members
- 00 Student Members
- 00 Institutional Members
- 00 Sustaining Member

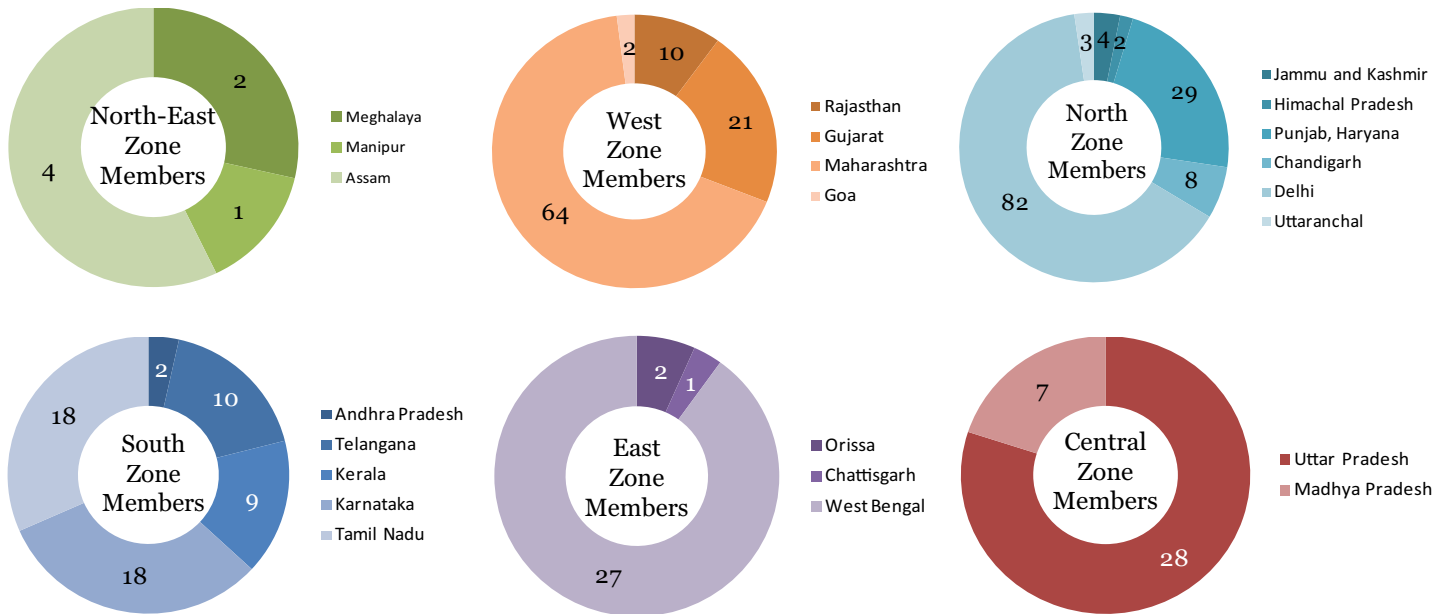
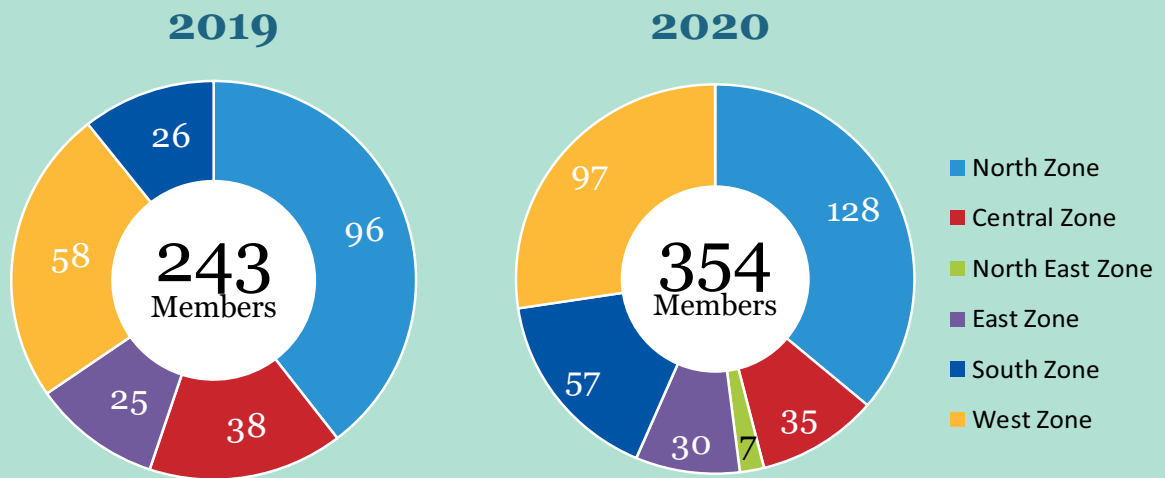
- 31 Individual Members
- 16 Young Professional Members
- 06 Associate Members
- 01 Student Members
- 03 Institutional Members
- 00 Sustaining Member

- 19 Individual Members
- 01 Young Professional Members
- 08 Associate Members
- 00 Student Members
- 00 Institutional Members
- 00 Sustaining Member

- NORTH ZONE
- WEST ZONE
- CENTRAL ZONE
- EAST ZONE
- SOUTH ZONE
- NORTH EAST ZONE



MEMBERSHIP ANALYSIS



YEAR	TOTAL	INDIVIDUAL	YP	ASSOCIATE	STUDENT	INSTITUTIONAL	SUSTAINING
2018	239	139	50	28	17	5	0
2019	243	132	45	56	3	6	1
2020	354	201	69	73	3	8	0

MEMBERS 2020

/ ZONE-WISE / ALPHABETICAL ORDER

NORTH ZONE



CENTRAL ZONE



NORTH ZONE



EAST ZONE



MEMBERS 2020

/ ZONE-WISE / ALPHABETICAL ORDER

WEST ZONE



SOUTH ZONE



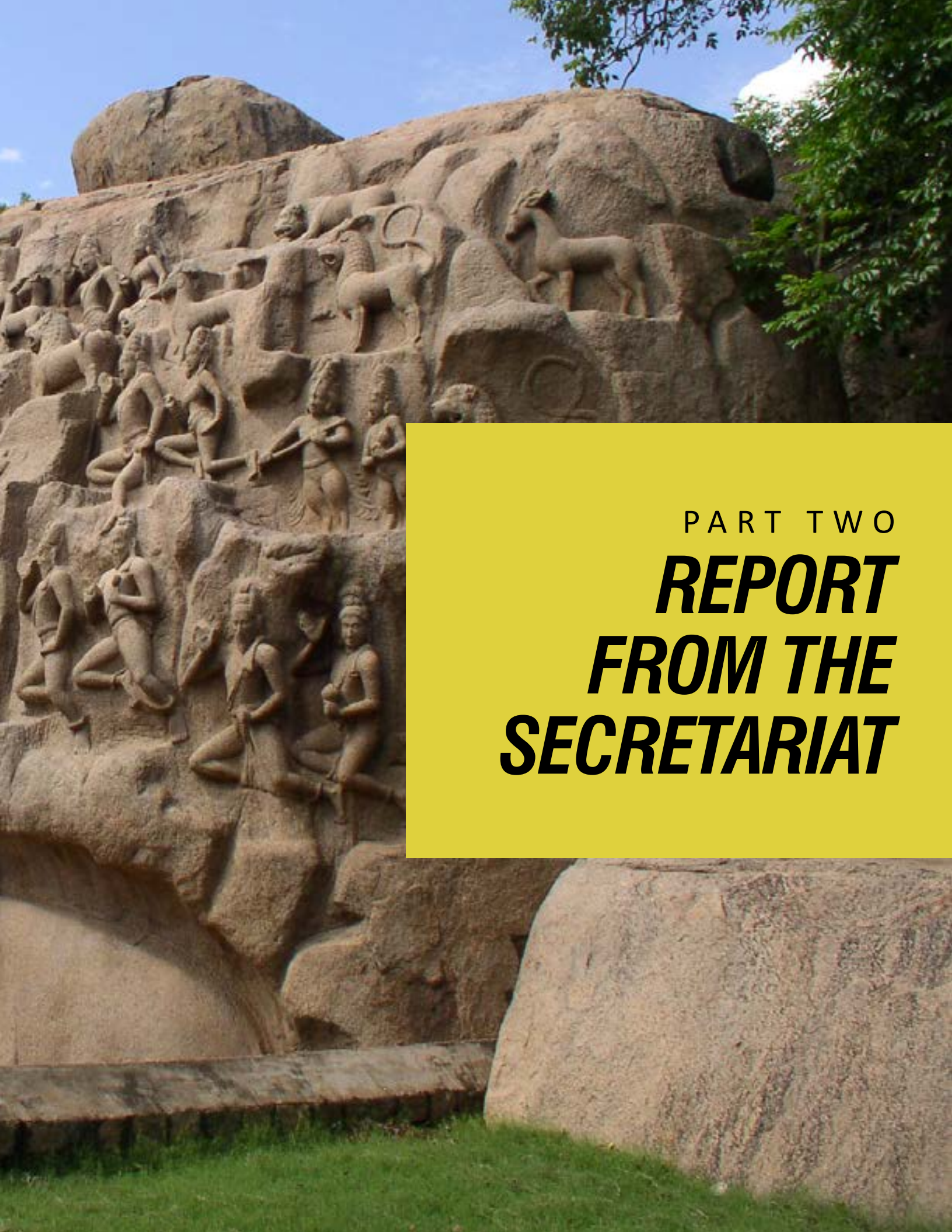
DAYANANDA
SAGAR COLLEGE
OF ARCHITECTURE

NORTH
EAST
ZONE





Descent of the Ganges: Monumental Rock Relief, Mahabalipuram, Tamilnadu. Image source: Kiran Joshi



PART TWO
***REPORT
FROM THE
SECRETARIAT***

REPORT FROM THE SECRETARIAT



*COMOS India Members
at the AGM-cum-Scientific
Symposium 2019*

The year 2019 started with a successful Annual General Meeting-cum-Scientific Symposium held in Varanasi in June 2019, along with the elections of some members of the Executive Committee, viz. the President, the Treasurer, the South Zone Representative and, the Central Zone Representative. The Secretary, Ms. Urvashi Srivastava, resigned post the symposium, to bring in Ms. Shalini Dasgupta, the North Zone Representative, as Secretary and, further Ms. Radhika Dhumal as the North Zone Representative. This shuffling of Executive Committee members brought in a new perspective and new energy to drive the year 2019-20.

Post the commencement of the term in June 2019, two new Working Groups, namely for Emerging professionals (EPWG) and Climate Change & Heritage (CCHWG), were formulated while those already existing, i.e., Water & Heritage (WHWG) and Rights Based Approach (RBAWG) , were strengthened through enhanced activities.

The National Scientific Conclave for 21 National Scientific Committees of COMOS India was held in October 2019 at the Kamala Raheja Vidyanidhi Institute for Architecture, Mumbai. Coordinators and members of various NSCs participated. The two-day discourses and brainstorming on various issues related to scientific activity within COMOS were followed by public lectures and workshops for students of KRVIA. Updates on COMOS India's 'Strategic Plan for 2020-2025' were presented and discussed, along with the changes required to the relevant sections of the Society's Standard Operating Procedures and Guidelines (SOPG). The first membership cycle was held from September to November 2019. This was followed by the second cycle from December 2019 to February 2020. With

the streamlined process of membership introduced in 2018, the membership numbers have been on the rise from 239 in 2018 to 243 in 2019, with a quantum jump to 354 in 2020. During the 2019-2020, one Sustaining member and 8 Institutional Members were added to the COMOS family.

COMOS India has provided a platform to concerned heritage professionals, Organisations & institutions to voice their concern for heritage. COMOS India will continue to expand partnerships through collaboration with institutions and government bodies.

Significant activities that were successfully coordinated by the Secretariat from April 2019 – March 2020 have been elaborated below:

Membership Process 2020

The yearly membership of ICOMOS India was advanced to open from September 2019. It lasted up upto February 2020, with all collections being made before the end of the financial year in March 2020. Existing members renewed their membership during this period by paying the annual membership fee as per the RR of MoA. Applications for new memberships were invited for General category



(Individual, Young Professionals, Associate and Student), Institutional Category and Sustaining Category. As per the MoA, the new applicants were asked to attach a copy of Address Proof, ID Proof, Statement of Intent, and a signed Ethical Statement. All these documents were uploaded on the online application form, along with updated curriculum vitae, a passport size photograph as well as basic information required for communication.

The cycle also allowed existing members to apply for upgradation of their category from Associate/Student to Individual/Young Professionals.

The new membership applications were scrutinised by the Executive Committee and assigned appropriate categories. Successful applicants paid the required fee via the online portal to complete their registration. Lists of new and old Individual, Institutional and Young Professional's categories lists were then updated on icomos.org. Membership cards for the first round of memberships were received by December 2019, and were forwarded to the members by early January 2020. The whole process was repeated for the next round, closing in February 2020. The membership for year 2020 is a total of 354 members (8 Institutional; 1 sustaining and 345 General members) with 201 Individual Members, 69 Young Professional Members, 73 Associate Members and, 3 Student members.

Setting Up Emerging Professionals Working Group (EPWG-India)

The Emerging Professionals Working Group (EPWG), which has its beginnings in the ICOMOS General Assembly 2017 held in Delhi, is an ICOMOS International initiative that seeks to increase the Emerging Professionals (EP) membership base and enable greater integration of this group with the larger workings of the ICOMOS. Its vision is as follows:

- 1) Maintain ICOMOS' scientific relevance for future generations,
- 2) Secure inter-generational engagement to ensure the organization's continuity, and,
- 3) Share ICOMOS ethical tenets to professionals during early stages of their education.

The group will be a platform from which individuals entering the Culture, Conservation and Heritage Industry are able to network with ICOMOS members for their professional development and growth"

DEFINITION: 'For the purposes of joining COMOS India's EPWG, an Emerging Professional' (EP) means COMOS India's Individual or Associate Members who have less than 18 years total educational and/or professional experience, in a field related to the aims defined in Article 3 of the Statutes of COMOS India.

SELECTION PROCESS: Expressions of Interest for joining the EPWG were invited through the Listserv, also specifying the eligibility conditions. Applications

received were vetted by committee comprising 3-4 members of COMOS India's Executive Committee. The process of setting up EPWG underwent a fair round of receiving applications, reviewing applications and then final selections based on the defined criteria. After the final round that took place after February 2020, COMOS India's EPWG has 56 members.

The Emerging Professionals were further grouped within the Zones they belonged. Thereafter, elections were held for the EPWG National Representative (also officially representing COMOS India at the International EPWG) and, the Representatives from each Zone. Ritika Khanna was voted as the National EP Representative. The Zonal Representatives include Aishwarya Das (North Zone), Narayanan Thirunavukkarasu (South Zone), Nishant Upadhyay (Central Zone) and, Nityaa Iyer (West Zone).

Annual General Meeting & Scientific Symposium 2019

The 6th Annual General Meeting of COMOS India was organized on 21st - 22nd June, 2019 at Sunbeam School, Bhagwanpur, Varanasi. In view of the vacancy of the post of the President, as per the Sub clause V of rule 10 of the Rules and Regulations of the Society, the members present elected Ms Gurmeet S Rai, Vice President to chair and preside over the Annual General Meeting. The AGM convened on 21st June 2019 and then the meeting was reconvened on 22nd June 2019 as per the Rules and Regulations of the COMOS for the absence of quorum on 21st June 2019.

The agenda items transacted included the approval of minutes of the last Annual General Meeting (2019), presentation of the Annual Report (2019-2020), presentation of the Expenditure and the Audited accounts (2019- 2020), presentation of the Budget for 2020-2021, appointment of the Chartered Accountant and Auditor (2020-2021), presentation of Strategic Plan, followed by an open house discussion. This was followed up by the Scientific Symposium titled, "Interfacing Sacred Heritage, Cultural Landscapes and Sustainable Development Goals".

Elections 2019

COMOS Secretariat successfully conducted Elections to the vacant posts of the President, Treasurer, South Zone Representative and Central Zone Representative.



Ongoing Annual General Meeting 2019 at Sunbeam School, Bhagwanpur, Varanasi

The post for President, Treasurer, South Zone & Central Zone Representative of Council and Monuments and Sites (COMOS) fell vacant on account of casual vacancy due to:

- Mr Rohit Jigyasu, previous President proceeding to take overseas employment thus resigning on 11th Jan 2019.
- Ms Vanicka Arora, previous Treasurer proceeding to study abroad and thus resigning on 5th February 2018
- Dr Ajay Khare, Zonal Representative Central Zone resigned on 10th April 2018 due to health consideration
- Mr Pankaj Modi, Zonal Representative South Zone resigned from his post on 4 th October 2019 due to personal reasons

As per Rule 12 of Rules and Regulations of COMOS, Dr Yaaminey Mubayi was appointed as the Election Officer and Dr Jigna Desai was appointed as Returning Officer for conducting the elections for the four casual vacancies. The posts for the Central and South Zone Representative remained uncontested with only one nomination for each post.

Elections were held between Ms. Kiran Joshi and Mr. Munish Pundit for the post of President; and between Ms. Sangeeta Bais and Ms. Priyanka Singh for the post of Treasurer. Counting of the votes was done at the AGM by the Returning Officer and Election Officer in presence of two observer members, Ms. Anuradha Chaturvedi and Ms. Sonali Jaiswal. Election Officer declared the results after counting. Ms. Kiran Joshi won the Election for the post of President and for the post of Treasurer, Ms. Sangeeta Bais won.



From Left: Dr Yaaminey Mubayi as the Election Officer and Dr Jigna Desai as Returning Officer for Elections 2019

The Election Officer and the Returning Officer pointed out some gaps in the MoA for election process and presented a need for secret ballot as issues to be addressed before next elections. The Chairperson requested the Election Officer and Returning Officer to submit a detailed report on the Election Process highlighting the reforms required before the next General Elections in 2020.

National Scientific Conclave

COMOS India's National Scientific Conclave of 2019 was organised on 10th-11th October 2019 at Mumbai, supported by Kamala Raheja Vidyavidyalaya Institute of Architecture and Environment Studies (KRVIA), and Ducol Organic Paints, Mumbai. The Day One of the Conclave featured reports by the Co-ordinators of NSCs and Working Groups. Day Two was reserved for discussions on streamlining NSCs and Working Groups, discussions on proposed changes within the SOPG and deliberations on the progress of the Strategic Plan.

NSC Grant Works

Coordinators of the two collaborative NSC projects, to which grants were awarded in 2018, presented progress reports. The first project is titled "Case Studies for Preparation of a Detailed Format, Database and Inventory of Cultural Heritage within Cultural Routes" being carried out between NSC-Cultural Routes, NSC-Cultural Landscapes, NSC-Intangible Cultural Heritage and, NSCHeritage documentation.

The second ongoing project is "Developing a Thematic Framework – Issues Concerning the Recognition, Identification and Conservation of Pre-independence 20th Century Heritage of India". Members of NSC20C presented their study and analysis of various modernisation efforts in Ambala Cantonment's Sadar Area and the Fort Area of Mumbai, along with a preliminary identification of historic buildings that illustrate such processes.

Upgrading COMOS India Website

The second phase of the website development has already started and we are coming up with more interactive features for our members - an independent forum for each National Scientific Committee and Working Group. Apart from the look and feel of the website, we are concentrating on intuitive navigation, concise content and a one-stop solution on information dissemination of COMOS India.

The membership page of the website will also be updated with new features like maintaining the records of each member online, fee calculation, and they will be updated about their NSCs or WGs on their panel and will be allowed to post articles, comment etc to their NSCs or WGs.

Formulation Of Working Groups

COMOS India Working Groups were formulated namely for Emerging professionals (EPWG) and Climate Change & Heritage (CCHWG) while the other two prevalent ones were strengthened namely Water & Heritage (WHWG) and Rights Based Approach (RBAWG) through enhanced activities. These Working Groups represent the national issues and agendas at the corresponding International Working Groups. A detailed activity based description of working groups can be seen in section 3 of the report.

The Strategic Plan

The process of formulating the 'STRATEGIC PLAN' for COMOS India has been a participatory one. The first attempt at creating a Strategy Document was made in October 2014 which enumerated certain Strategic Principles and a three year Action Plan. The process for the current draft of 'Strategic Plan' was started in January 2019. A drafting committee was constituted and, after initial rounds of deliberations, the First draft D1 was shared for Executive Committee comments in May 2019.



Strategic Plan cover



Strategic Plan inside pages

After the next round of deliberations and discussions within the Executive Committee, the comments received from various members were incorporated and presented as Draft D2 to the General Body during the Varanasi AGM held in June 2019. The Next step was deliberations with the Scientific Counsellor to corroborate NSC inputs within the Strategic Plan. Draft Three - D3 was thus prepared, based on these discussions, and presented again for deliberations between the NSC Co-ordinators and the membership at the NSC Conclave held in Mumbai in October 2019.

All comments received at the Conclave have been incorporated and the current 'Strategic Plan' Draft Four - D4, is being circulated for the entire membership to comment and give their feed back, before it is officially accepted for working by the Executive Committee and the Members at large.

Jan - April 2019	Initial deliberations within the Drafting Committee
May 2019	Draft One - D1 shared with Ex Com
May - June 2019	Ex Com Deliberations
June 2019	Draft Two - D2 presented at the Varanasi AGM
July - Sep 2019	Deliberations with the Scientific Counsellor
Oct 2019	Draft Three - D3 presented at the NSC Conclave
May 2020	Draft Four - D4 with incorporated comments

The Strategic Plan tactically outlines the current position of COMOS India as an organization, and where it seeks to be at the end of the coming five years (2020 -2025) and, the road map to be followed.

The Strategic Plan will help

- Define the ground for action as well as roles and responsibilities for all members of the organization across the various membership categories
- Guide the development of future programs and action plans for the organization
- Determine the direction for financial resource mobilization and management

Appointments

President: The post for President fell vacant on account of resignation by the previous President, Mr Rohit Jigyasu. Elections were held between Prof. Kiran Joshi and Mr. Munish Pundit for the post of President. Prof. Kiran Joshi won the Election and took over the office in June 2019.

Treasurer: The Post for treasurer fell vacant on account of the previous treasurer Ms. Vanicka Arora resigning in February 2018. Ms. Aishwarya Rai served as the Interim treasurer from February 2018 to June 2019. The post was contested in the election between Ms. Sangeeta Bais and Ms. Priyanka Singh and won by Ms. Sangeeta Bais. The responsibilities were handed over to the new Treasurer in June 2019.

South Zone Representative: The Executive Committee appointed Mr GSV Surya Narayana Murthy in October 2018 as the Interim South Zone Representative until elections for the vacant post were held in June 2019. He won the elections unopposed.

Central Zone Representative: Mr Ajay Khare, Central Zone Representative resigned from his post in April 2018 citing personal health reasons. The Executive Committee appointed Mr Navneet Raman in August 2018 as the Interim Central Zone Representative until elections for the vacant post were held in June 2019. Mr. Sarvesh Kumar won the elections unopposed.

Secretary: Ms. Urvashi Srivastava resigned from the post of Secretary in June 2019, citing personal reasons. The Executive Committee appointed Ms. Shalini Dasgupta as the interim Secretary until elections were announced in March 2020.

North Zone Representative: Ms. Shalini Dasgupta resigned from the post of North Zone Representative to take on the responsibility as Interim Secretary. Ms. Radhika Dhumal became the new North Zone Representative and resumed office in July 2019.

National Scientific Counsellor: The Executive Committee appointed Ms. Jigna Desai as the NSC Counsellor in June 2019 taking over from Prof Kiran Joshi, the NSC Counsellor since October 2018.

Chartered Accountant and Auditor: M/s Alacrity Corporate Solutions Private Limited for the accounting work and M/S Vinay Pandey & Co as the auditors for the year 2019-2020.

Extension of Rent Agreement

COMOS India's rental agreement for the present office space at 623 A, Somdutt Chambers II, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi 110066 was extended for a period of 1 year starting August 2019.

Milestones Achieved

COMOS India undertook a number of activities during the year 2019-2020 with the support of the Secretariat. The Secretariat spent a lot of time sorting out administrative, membership and financial matters. The milestones achieved are as follows:

- The 5th Annual General Meeting and Scientific Symposium of COMOS India was organized on 21st / 22nd June, 2019 at Varanasi
- The National Scientific Committee Symposium was held on 10/11/12 October, 2019 at Mumbai
- Agreement of Co-operation between COMOS India and O. P Jindal Global University for augmenting theory and practice in the subject of Rights-Based Approaches (RBA)
- COMOS India Participation In "Icorp-On The Road Project: Episode 6 - Kartarpur Corridor"
- Observers During ICOMOS Technical Evaluation Mission for "Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple, Palampet, Telangana, India"
- Collaboration with Delhi Urban Heritage Foundation
- Formation of EPWG - Emerging professionals working Group
- Formation of Rights Based Approach, Climate Change and Heritage and Water & Heritage Working Groups
- Consolidation of NSC Research Proposal Grant
- Formulation of Strategic Paper for COMOS India
- Multitude of Zonal Activities in all Zones on World Heritage Day in April and Heritage Week in November.
- Upgrading COMOS India website and creation of platform for NSC's & Working Groups.
- All membership related work completed by 15th Feb 2020 and cards dispatched to all members
- Closure of all accounting work for the FY 2019-2020.



Qutb Shahi Toms in Ibrahim Bagh, Hyderabad, Telangana, Image Source: Kiran Joshi

KEY FINANCIALS 2019-2020

The Annual Budget for FY 2019-20 was approved in the Annual General Meeting on 21st June to 22nd June 2019 excluding the item no. F (Zonal & NSC Activity) and G (Scientific Work on the theme of Heritage & Democracy). The approved budget included following heads Capital Expenditure, Salaries, Consultancies, Office Expenses and Membership Fees. The total approved budgeted amount was Rs 28,59,436/- however the actual expenditure incurred during FY 2019-20 is Rs 30,70,189.

Donation & Membership Fee Received FY 2019-2020

The donations received of Rs 1,65,000/- received by COMOS in 2019-2020 from M/S Ducol Organics and Colours.

Total Current year Membership Fee of Rs.13,65,500/- received as per below summary -

Associates membership	- Rs.1,47,500/-
Individual Membership	- Rs.8,08,000/-
Institutional Members	- Rs.2,75,000/-
Young Members	- Rs.1,32,500/-
Student Members	- Rs.2500/-
Previous year membership dues-	Rs.1,85,600/-

Closure of Annual Accounts and Closure of all GA Liabilities

The closure of the annual accounts and closure of all GA liabilities was a complicated process due to the following reasons :

i. Force Majeure

Vinay Pandey & Co was appointed auditors for the year 2019-20 . Due to covid 19 lockdown, work from home or remote locations was only possible. It was unplanned and unprecedented but we successfully co-ordinated and ensured the same is ready and complete.

The accounts statements prepared by Alacrity Corporate Solutions and dully audited by Vinay Pandey & Co. after it has been dully reconciled with the bank statements and invoices who has

also sent an accountant to the COMOS office to prepare the books. The Executive Officer. The Executive Committee continued the services of M/s Alacrity Corporate Solutions Private Limited for the accounting work and M/S Vinay Pandey & Co as the auditors for the year 2019-2020 to be able to complete the auditing process for the AGM and proposes to continue their services for the same in F.Y. 2020-21.

Due to the Covid-19 situation when we were in complete lock down and in the above mentioned extraordinary circumstances, the entire accounting has been done in the very limited time.

ii. Approval of Income Tax Department for spending the surplus within FY 2019-2020

As stated above, the surplus from the General Assembly needs to be utilized for the objectives of COMOS in the most efficient manner therefore a special approval from the Income Tax Department needs to be sought. It was brought to the notice of the members that the surplus funds can only be used towards revenue expenditure within FY 2019-20 during the AGM 2019. The due procedure is followed and Form 10B was filed last year with the Income Tax Department and the same process would need to be followed every year as per prevailing rules.

iii Filing of GST Liability

COMOS had no outstanding GST liability at the end of Accounting Year due to all the receipts being Donations and Membership fee.

iv. Filing of TDS Liability

COMOS has dully deposited TDS on applicable payments such as rent, consulting fee etc and Filed TDS Return timely in compliance of Income Tax Act.

v. Filing of Income Tax Return for 2018-2019

With the completion of all accounting, auditing and payment of all duties, COMOS finalized its IT Return in compliance with Rules and Regulation of Registrar of Societies and Income Tax Department.

The Income Tax Return for the year 2018-2019 was successfully filed on 4th October,2019.

COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES
623-A, SOMDUIT CHAMBER-II BHIKAJI CAMA PLACE NEW DELHI 110066

BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31ST MARCH 2020

PARTICULARS	Notes	As at 31 March 2020	As at 31 March 2019
SOURCE OF FUND			
Corpus Fund			
Opening Balance		10,022,939.65	10,783,346.64
Add: Surplus (Deficit)		(862,118.87)	(760,406.12)
Current Liabilities & Provision			
Other Current Liability	3	830,000.40	100,578.22
Duties and Taxes	4	4,925.00	399,253.51
TOTAL		9,995,746.18	10,522,772.25
APPLICATION OF FUNDS			
FIXED ASSESST			
Laptop		17,965.65	29,607.13
Current Assets			
Trade Receivable	5	-	26,316.00
Cash in hand and cash at Kotak Bank	6	8,690,701.79	9,009,964.22
Duties & Taxes	7	1,146,178.74	1,381,884.90
Other Current Assets	8	140,900.00	75,000.00
TOTAL		9,995,746.18	10,522,772.25
Significant accounting policies	2		

As per our Report of even date

For and on Behalf of the Board

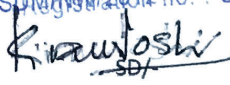
For **VINAY PANDEY & CO**
Chartered Accountants
FRN 0323781N

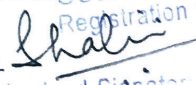
CA. **VINAY PANDEY**
Proprietor
Membership No.: 532376


Place: DELHI
Date: 09.05.2020

For **COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES**

Council on Monuments and Sites
Registration no. : S/1344/SDM/NW/2012

 SD/-
Kiran Joshi
Authorized Signatory
(President)

 SD/-
Shalini Dasgupta
Authorized Signatory
(Secretary)

 SD/-
Sangeeta Bais
Authorized Signatory
(Treasurer)

COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES
623-A, SOMDUTT CHAMBER-II BHIKAJI CAMA PLACE NEW DELHI 110066

Statement for Income & Expenditure

PARTICULARS	Notes	For the year ended 31 March 2020	For the year ended 31 March 2019
INCOME			
Receipt from Donation etc.	9	2,208,070.00	1,603,989.48
Total income		2,208,070.00	1,603,989.48
Expenses			
Employee benefit expense	10	542,210.00	660,561.62
Other expenses	11	2,527,978.87	1,703,833.98
Total expenses		3,070,188.87	2,364,395.60
Excess of Income Over Expenditure		(862,118.87)	(760,406.12)
<u>Tax expense :-</u>			
Current tax Provision		-	
Net Surplus		(862,118.87)	(760,406.12)
Significant accounting policies	2		
The notes referred to above form an integral part of the financial statements As per our report attached			

As per our Report of even date

For and on Behalf of the Board

For **VINAY PANDEY & CO**
Chartered Accountants
FRN 032378

CA. **VINAY PANDEY**
Prop
Membership No. 511376

Place: DELHI
Date: 09.05.2020

For **COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES**

Council on Monuments and Sites
 Registration no. : S/1344/SDM/NW/2012

Kiran Joshi
SD/-
Kiran Joshi
Authorized Signatory
(President)

Shalini Dasgupta
SD/-
Shalini Dasgupta
Authorized Signatory
(Secretary)

Sangeeta Bais
SD/-
Sangeeta Bais
Authorized Signatory
(Treasurer)

COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2020
(All amount are in Indian Rupees, except for share data, and if otherwise stated)

1 Background

Council on Monuments and Sites ('the Society') was Registered in India on 1st Oct, 2012 as per Society Act, . The Society is engaged in Conservation, Protection, Rehabilitation, Enhancement and Maintenance of Cultural Heritage in India and Abroad.

2 Significant accounting policies

A) Basis of preparation of financial statements

The Accounting Standard Issued by Institute of Chartered Accountant of India are Applicable to Non-Profit Entities only if any part of the activities of the entity is considered to be commercial industrial or business in nature. The Society is not carrying on any activity in the nature of commercial, industrial or business. Therefore the Accounting Standard are not mandatory and have been followed to the extent practicable or relevant. The Financial Statement have been prepared under the historical cost convention and accrual basis except stated otherwise. The accounting policies have been consistently applied by Society.

B) Revenue / Expenditure Recognition

All Grant are Accountaed on receipt basis and expenditure and liabilities are recognised on accrual basis . Interest Income is recognised using time proportion method.

C) Income Tax:

- The Society is registered with Income Tax Authorities under section 12A of the Income Tax Act. 1961 and hence the Income of the Society is exempt under section 11 of Income Tax Act subject to compliance of relevant provisions of section 11 read with section 12 and 13 of the Act. The permanent Account No. (PAN) of the Society is AABAC5060E.
- Donation of the to the Society are eligible for Tax relief in the hand of donor under section 80-G of Income Tax Act 1961.

3) Foreign Payment

During the year Entity has made a payment to its foreign association ICOMOS International in foreign currency 5430 Euro which is in Indian Currency for Rs.4,35,529.



Signature

Shalini

Kiran Joshi

COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES
Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31st march 2020

Note 3 Other current liabilities

Particulars	As at 31 March, 2020	As at 31 March, 2019
Alacrity	24,840.00	21,600.00
Vinay Pandey & Co.	53,100.00	35,000.00
Designdot Technologis Pvt. Ltd	6,975.00	
Elixir Foundation	2,400.00	
Sunil Pahilajani	28,350.00	28,350.00
International Council on Monuments and Site	667,766.40	
M/s Nasreen Enterprises		838.10
Sujata Prasad	46,569.00	9,145.00
TR International		5,645.12
	830,000.40	100,578.22

Note 4 Duties and Taxes

Particulars	As at 31 March, 2020	As at 31 March, 2019
TDS on Professional Fee	2,300.00	
TDS on Rent	2,625.00	
IGST OUTPUT		399,253.51
	4,925.00	399,253.51

Note 5 Trade Receivable

Particulars	As at 31 March, 2020	As at 31 March, 2019
SM Verma & Co.		13,716.00
Gujrat Pavitra Yatradhan Vikas Board		12600.00
Total	-	26,316.00

Note 6 Cash and cash equivalents

Particulars	As at 31 March, 2020	As at 31 March, 2019
Kotak Mahindra Bank	8,690,701.79	9,009,964.22
Total	8,690,701.79	9,009,964.22



Kiran Joshi

Shalini

Note 7 Duties and Taxes

Particulars	As at 31 March, 2020	As at 31 March, 2019
TDS Receivable_2017-18	46,050.00	46,050.00
TDS Receivable_2018-19	1,400.00	1,400.00
GST		
Electronic Cash Ledger	60,380.00	60,380.00
CGST Input	519,174.38	637,027.45
SGST Input	519,174.36	637,027.45
IGST Input		
Total	1,146,178.74	1,381,884.90

Note 8 Other Current Assets

Particulars	As at 31 March, 2020	As at 31 March, 2019
Advance to Project	60,000.00	
Prepaid Exp	5,900.00	
Security Deposit Rent	75,000.00	75,000.00
Total	140,900.00	75,000.00



Kiran Joshi

Shalini
"Dey"

COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES
Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 2020

Note 9 Revenue from operation

Particulars	For the year ended 31 March, 2020	For the year ended 31 March, 2019
Membership Fee Received:		
Membership Fee Received		22,893.83
Associates	147,500.00	44,314.15
Individual	808,000.00	572,986.56
Institutional Member	275,000.00	225,000.00
Student Member	2,500.00	38,935.94
Young Member Association	132,500.00	3,000.00
Saving Bank Interest	491,970.00	566,859.00
Prior Period Membership fee	185,600.00	
Donation Recd.	165,000.00	60,000.00
Sponsorship Fee Recd.		70,000.00
Total	2,208,070.00	1,603,989.48

Note 10 Employee benefits expense

Particulars	For the year ended 31 March, 2020	For the year ended 31 March, 2019
Salaries to staff	500,000.00	660,561.62
Staff welfare expenses	42,210.00	
Total	542,210.00	660,561.62

Note 11 Other expenses

Particulars	For the year ended 31 March, 2020	For the year ended 31 March, 2019
Audit fees	90,000.00	35,000.00
Bank Charges	6,394.28	767.00
Membership Fee	1,103,295.87	470,536.37
Conveyance		880.00
Meeting and Conference Exp.	25,691.00	48,577.82
Postage & Courier	26,512.20	34,439.00
Professional Fee	490,790.00	272,538.00
Printing & Stationary	42,416.06	28,324.70
Advertisizing exp.		31,000.00
Electricity Exp	7,749.35	27,438.00
Office Exp.	77,173.00	56,065.53
Rent	315,000.00	324,809.32
Repair & Maintenance	27,220.30	44,229.05
Software Exp		2,330.00
Tour & Travelling Exp.	55,421.78	137,976.08
foreign travelling		85,465.00
Late Fee, Interest and Penalty	6,717.00	10,290.00
Deprication	11,641.00	19,342.35
Meal & Entairtainment	6,630.00	19,828.00
other exp	31,184.88	30,842.12
round off		(1.89)
Computer Hire Charges		11,900.00
Telephone Exp	13,929.86	11,257.53
Bad Debts	26,316.00	
Event and Project Exp	59,714.52	
Conclave Exp	101,586.00	
GST Exp	2,595.77	
Total	2,527,978.87	1,703,833.98

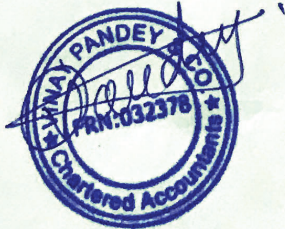


K. Ravi Prasad
Shalini
Shalini

COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES
623-A, SOMDUTT CHAMBER-II BHIKAJI CAMA PLACE NEW DELHI 110066

RECEIPT AND PAYMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED

PARTICULARS	Notes	31 March 2020	31 March 2019
RECEIPT			
Opening Balance			
Cash in hand			81,176.70
Cash at Kotak Bank		9,009,964.22	9,734,556.47
	Total A	9,009,964.22	9,815,733.17
Receipt During the Year			
Donation		165,000.00	60,000.00
Sponsorship			70,000.00
Collection From O/S Sponsorship and Othrs			1,757,115.00
Refund			907,130.48
Membership Fee		1,551,100.00	566,859.00
Saving Bank Interest		491,970.00	
	Total B	2,208,070.00	3,361,104.48
	Grand Total C =A+B	11,218,034.22	13,176,837.65
PAYMENT			
Membership Fee		435,529.47	470,536.37
Bank Charges		6,394.28	767.00
Audit Fee		45,000.00	35,000.00
Meeting Exp.		25,691.00	48,577.82
Postage & Courier		26,512.00	34,439.00
Printing & Stationary		42,416.06	28,324.70
Conveyance			880.00
Professional Fee		454,275.00	272,538.00
Brokerage & Commission			31,000.00
Electricity Exp		7,749.35	27,438.00
Office Exp.		77,173.00	56,065.53
Rent		284,025.00	324,809.32
Repair & Maintenance		27,220.30	44,229.05
Software Exp			2,330.00
Tour & Travelling Exp.		48,852.78	137,976.08
Foreign Travelling			85,465.00
Late Fee & Penalty		9,312.77	10,290.00
Meal & entertainment		6,630.00	19,828.00
Other exp		31,184.88	30,842.12
Computer Hire Charges			11,900.00
Telephone Exp		13,929.86	11,255.64
Staff Salary		460,000.00	660,561.61
Staff welfare expenses		42,210.00	
Event and Project Exp		59,714.52	
Conclave Exp		101,586.00	
Payment of Current Liabilities		100,578.22	1,806,870.84
Increase in Current Assets			14,000.00
Increase in Fixed Assets			949.35



Kraw Josw

Shalini Nayak

Duties and Taxes Paid		155,447.94	
Advance to Project		60,000.00	
Prepaid Exp		5,900.00	
	Total D	2,527,332.43	4,166,873.43
CLOSING BALANCE			
Cash in hand		8,690,701.79	9,009,964.22
Cash at Kotak Mahindra Bank		8,690,701.79	9,009,964.22
	Total	11,218,034.22	13,176,837.65
	Grand Total F =D+E		

As per our Report of even date

For and on Behalf of the Board

For VINAY PANDEY & CO

Chartered Accountants

FRN 032378

CH. VINAY PANDEY

Prop.

Membership No.: 511478

Place: DELHI

Date: 09.05.2020



Council on Monuments and Sites
 Registration no.: S/1344/SDMIN/012

Kiran Joshi SD/-
 Kiran Joshi
 (President)

Shalini Dasgupta SD/-
 Shalini Dasgupta
 (Secretary)

Sangeeta Bais SD/-
 Sangeeta Bais
 (Treasurer)

Authorised Signatory

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO the members of COUNCIL ON MOMUMENT AND SITES

Report on the financial statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of **COUNCIL ON MONUMENT AND SITES** ("the Society"), which comprise the Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2020 and the statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management' Responsibility for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of these financial statements that give a true and fair view of the financial position and financial performance of the Society in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in India. This responsibility includes maintenance of adequate Accounting Record in accordance with provision of the Act that give true and fair view and are free from material misstatements. Whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with standards on Auditing issued by the institute of chartered Accountants of India. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement. Including the assessment of the risk of material misstatement of financial statement whether due to fraud of error. In making those assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Society's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements. In order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of the accounting estimates made by management as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.



Opinion

In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us. The financial statements give information required by the Act in the manner so required and give a true and fair view in conformity with the accounting principles generally accepted in India:

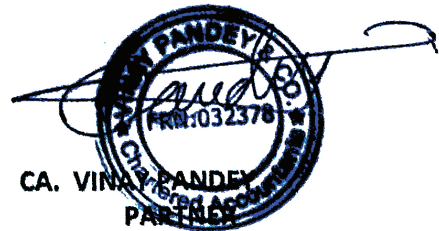
- (a) In the case of Balance sheet of the state of affairs of the Society as at March 31, 2020.
- (b) In the case of the Income and Expenditure Account, of the Surplus for the year ended that date: and

Other Matters:

- (a) we have obtained all information and explanations which to the best of knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit.
- (b) In our opinion proper books of accounts have been kept by the Society as appears from our examination of these books.
- (c) The balance sheet and Income and Expenditure Account dealt with by this report are in agreement with the books of accounts.

PLACE: NEW DELHI:
DATED: 09/05/2020

For A VINAY PANDEY & CO
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
FRN 032378N



M.NO 511376

FISCAL PLANNING FINANCIAL YEAR 2020-2021

Annual Budget FY 2020-2021

On the basis of the actual expenditure incurred during FY 2019-20, the budget for the FY 2020-2021 is being proposed at Rs. 3,242,800/- including Capital Expenditure, Salaries, Consultancies, Office Expenses and Membership Fees and others. As observed in the AGM of 2017-18, the procedures for the working of the NSC and disbursement of funds was put in place by the Secretariat. A process wherein proposals were invited from the NSCs, evaluated and approved for collaborative work between the NSCs was operationalised. This however did not lead to desirable outcomes. The matter was reviewed, considerable thought and dialogue among the membership through the NSCs has informed the road map for scientific work for the year 2020-21. Further, in response to the call by the International Secretariat for mobilizing young professional members (Emerging Professionals) to organize events on the theme of Shared Cultures, Shared Heritage, Shared Responsibility, on World Heritage Day, several activities were undertaken. In order to reach out to the zonal members, events and activities were organized in the zones. The deliberations in the membership and executive committee on the road map for the scientific work, events and activities undertaken in the previous year informed the finalization of the 5 year strategic plan. The Action plan (2020-21) is the basis for the budget heads proposed in the annual budget FY 2020-2021. These include COMOS India Research Grants, Zonal Funds, NSC Conclave and YP Events.

BUDGET FOR COMOS INDIA 2020-2021				
	Category	Expenditure Descripton	Details	Amount
A	CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	Office rental @ Rs 29500/ month Maintenance charges @ Rs 2000/month Office expenses @ Rs 5000/ month Telephone bills @ Rs 1000/ month	3,54,000 24,000 60,000 12,000	450,000.00
B	SALARIES	Executive Assistant @ Rs 40,000/ month Cleaner @ Rs 1000/ month	4,80,000 12,000	492,000.00
C	CONSULTANCIES	Accounts and Audits Yearly accounting Legal Expenditure	40,000 2,40,000 40,000	320,000.00
D	OFFICE EXPENSES	Printing & Stationary Couriers Travel & Conveyance Accounting Softwares, Cartridges, etc. Miscellaneous Electiricty Web hosting and domain	40,000 30,000 1,00,000 5,000 1,50,000 20,000 5,400	350,400.00
E	COMPUTER AND PRINTING FOR THE OFFICE	One desktop and printer		125,000.00
F	MEMBERSHIP FEES PARIS	Individual & Institutional member for 2020		650,000.00
G	ACYIVITY 1- KNOWLEDGE BUILDING AND ARCHIVING			
G-1	ICOMOS INDIA RESEARCH GRANT	3 research project @ 1,50,000 /- per project (seed fund)		450,000.00
G-2	TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING	4 capacity building workshops @ Rs 25000/- per workshop (seed grant).		100,000.00
H	ACTIVITY POINT 3- ZONAL ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH FUND	6 ZONES- 2 activities in a year @ Rs 10,000/- per activity. (seed grant).	@20000/- per zone	120,000.00
I	ANNUAL NSC COORDINATORS CONCLAVE	lumpsum (balance donors, partners etc)		25,000.00
J	AGM - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	lumpsum (balance donors, partners etc)		25,000.00
K	YP / EPWG EVENTS	2 events per zone for 6 zones @ Rs 5,000/- per event	@10000/- per zone	60,000.00
L	WORKING GROUPS	3 working groups @ Rs 15,000/- per working group		45,000.00
M	VIRTUAL PLATFORM FOR WEBINARS	ICOMOS ZOOM annual subscription @ Rs 1200/-per month for 12 months (100 people maximum capacity) and @ Rs 4,000/- for hosting large events for 4 months (500 people maximum capacity).		30,400.00
Total				3,242,800.00

(In words Thirty two lacs forty two thousand eight hundred only)



Ramappa Temple Sandstone sculptures. Image source: Dr. Choodamani Nandagopal



PART THREE

***NEWS FROM
THE ZONES***

NEWS FROM THE ZONES



*COMOS India Members
at the AGM-cum-Scientific
Symposium 2019*

CENTRAL ZONE

The Central Zone of COMOS India saw a change of guard during the year 2019-2020, with Dr. Sarvesh Kumar being elected and assuming charge as the Zonal Representative in June 2019. Details of the activities and events organised and sponsored by the Zone and its members are given below.

June 2019 : Annual General Meeting 2019

A major project undertaken by the Central Zone was the organisation of the Annual General Meeting-cum-Scientific Symposium for 2019. The two events were held in the historic and sacred city of Varanasi on 21st and 22nd June 2019, and attended by around 40 members. The Scientific Symposium titled, *“Interfacing Sacred Heritage, Cultural Landscapes and Sustainable Development Goals”*, specifically focused on the desirability of acknowledging inter-linkages between tangible and intangible heritage in development/conservation plans of historic environments, especially those of India’s multi-layered sacredscapes. In this context, the COMOS members present during the AGM-cum-Symposium also visited the site of the ongoing Vishvanatha Dham Project, and, later submitted their recommendation for heritage preservation. A pre-dawn visit was organised on 22nd June to facilitate members’ participation in the Mangala Aarti at Kashi Vishvanath Temple. The event concluded with a post-conference heritage walk and site observations at Kardameshvara Temple on 23rd June 2020. The event was coordinated by Central Zone COMOS India members, including prof. Rana P.B. Singh, Dr. Sarvesh Kumar, Mr. Navneet Raman, Ms Jyoti Rohilla Rana, and Ar. Sonali Jaiswal.



*Site Visit to the Vishwanatha Dham Project Area
Rana P.B. Singh, Tripathi Ji (priest), and Gurmeet Rai*



*Kushinagar Heritage site visit with the ICOMOS members
during 8th ACLA International Symposium*



*Site Visit to Kardameshvara Temple: Participants with
local experts Prof. Rana P. B. Singh and Sonali Jaiswal*

October 2019: ACLA International Symposium

The Central Zone Members collaborated with Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gorakhpur University and the Asian Cultural Landscape Association to organise the 8th ACLA International Symposium on 'Environment, Sustainability, Law & Cultural Landscapes of Asia' from 17-19 October 2019. A heritage awareness and awakening programme was arranged, on the last day at Kushinagar (U.P.), where the Buddha attained Nirvana. The programme was executed by Dr. Sarvesh Kumar, Central Zone Representative & Organising Secretary of ACLA Symposium, which was attended by forty participants, including four COMOS members (Rana P.B. Singh, GSV Suryanarayana Murthy, Gitanjali Rao and Krishna Kumar). The participants visited many monasteries, interacted with their chiefs and discussed various issues of public participation and heritage education.

November 2019: Celebrating the World Heritage Week at Khajuraho

A Heritage Walk at Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh, targeting local youth was organised on 23rd November 2019. It was conceived and executed by Mr. Nishant Upadhyay, EPWG Central Zone Representative and guided by Mr. Geert Robberechts, Convener INTACH Belgium. Support was offered by the Saraswati Shishu Mandir High School in Rajnagar. The majority of the participants were 15-17 year old students of the said school. The other participants included the teachers of the school and some residents of Khajuraho. The Khajuraho heritage landscape consists of 23 temple and monuments belonging to CE 10th – 12th centuries. These are inscribed on the World Heritage list as "Khajuraho Group of Monuments".



*Group picture of the participants with the walk organiser,
Mr. Nishant Upadhyay and Mr. Geert Robberechts*



Maidan, submission by Tanmoy Thakur in Harmony is Kolkata's Heritage exhibition

EAST ZONE

Building awareness on heritage and strengthening stakeholder and community, especially youth engagement in safeguarding and conservation were identified as priorities for activities by COMOS India's East Zone. The members agree that work for conservation of tangible and intangible heritage should not be in silos and awareness is needed to bring out the close links between the two. The agenda of building awareness on threat to the Maidan at Kolkata and importance of recognizing historical gardens was also taken up by the zonal members. The members collaborated to organize five public forums through talks and roundtables, one exhibition and two youth programs. Various aspects like design in historic towns and cities, green spaces and urban landscape, valorization of heritage, heritage education and awareness were covered in these programs. Apart from these events the members met on 5th May 2019 and 29th February 2020 for planning of zonal activities. Our members also participated in events by other organisations and institutions, such as inauguration of the City Exhibition at Metcalfe Hall, a program at the Scottish Cemetery and Calcutta Heritage Collective initiative RE VIVA L., Indian Museum, etc. We also partnered with Calcutta Heritage Collective, Alliance Francaise du Bengale, a not for profit SAVE and, several schools and colleges for wide reach out of the activities.

April 2019: World Heritage Day Celebrations: Saving Maidan

Maidan or *Garer Math* is the central open public space in Kolkata, popularly called the lungs of Kolkata. Its original area of around 1178 Bigha has been subjected to encroachment throughout the past, with a rapid increase in percentage of encroachment within the boundary. On World Heritage Day (18th April 2019) Mr. Anjan Mitra gave a talk titled 'Garer Math, Maidan: Calcutta's Past, Kolkata's Future'. His presentation delved on identifying the morphology, historic values, associated memories along with subsequent encroachments, current development practices and the urban concerns and issues surrounding Maidan. He compared the Maidan with two important international benchmarks – Hyde Park,



Presentation by Anjan Mitra in public discussion forum



Dr. Jayanta Sengupta of Victoria Memorial Hall sharing observations on saving Maidan

London, UK and Central Park, New York City, USA and shared how these two cities are celebrating and safeguarding their most Important public space. Indian Museum at Kolkata partnered in the initiative.

April 2019: World Heritage Day Celebrations: Quiz On Heritage

Schools and colleges were encouraged to organize quiz competitions to enhance knowledge of heritage as part of World Heritage Day commemoration. Some of the COMOS India members volunteered to conduct quiz. 50 students from St. John's Diocesan Girls H.S. School, The Oriental Seminary, Prafulla Chandra College and Loreto College participated and were awarded certificates. Heritage Quiz was also organized in several schools in Murshidabad district.

June 2019: More On Saving Maidan

A public discussion was organized at the Asutosh Memorial Hall in Indian Museum on 4th June 2019 (eve of World Environment Day), as a follow up activity, to reach out to wider cross section of over



Discussions on World Heritage Day

50 citizens, with SAVE (Sustained Actions for Value and Environment) as the knowledge partner. After the presentation by Anjan Mitra, several persons shared their memories of the tangible and intangible heritage aspects associated with Maidan. A wide array of concerns ranging from environmental & ecological issues, to issues relating to health & hygiene, cleanliness, safety & inclusivity were brought up by various members of the audience. It was pointed out that interventions are needed to make Maidan a destination by itself. A structured flow of activities is needed and the spaces have to be inclusive. Everyone agreed on the fact that in spite of its historical value, the Maidan today has ceased to be a place for public conglomeration and is not seen



Presentation on World Heritage Day

as a welcoming space for family outings, morning walks and other social activities. A second generation of plantation and creation of space for attracting the diverse fauna that once used to be a part of the Maidan were recommended, along with making of a detailed inventory of its existing attributes. The conversation ended on a note of collective recognition that the Garer Math, Maidan is an important public space of Kolkata, imbued with history, environmental significance and a host of personal attachment. As such, it is important for the city to come together and re-imagine a positive future for this space.

September 2019: Designing In Context

With the objective of strengthening dialogue on heritage conservation, East Zone of COMOS India and the Calcutta Heritage Collective jointly organized a talk on "New Buildings in Historic Settings: Designing in Context" by Dr. Sanghamitra Basu, Former Professor, Department of Architecture & Regional Planning, IIT Kharagpur and Coordinator



Dr. Sanghamitra Basu sharing examples on designing in context

of COMOS India's National Scientific Committee on Historic Towns and Villages. Dr. Basu explained that historic towns and cities, heritage zones or areas, are places with distinct identity. Characteristic visual culture, townscape elements, associations with events, rituals and practices, sense of place, all contribute to significance of these places. As dynamic entities these places manifest overlay of various periods and impact of changing socio-cultural and politico-economic forces. Individually, or as parts of a larger settlement, these places are generally hubs of activities and lived in places which are not meant to become museums frozen in time. New interventions

are necessary to cater to changing needs of the residents, visitors and tourists. In the absence of specific guidelines/design criteria, such interventions often result in incompatible uses, insensitive, non-descript structures or poor unimaginative imitations of historic styles; jeopardising their essential living quality. In order to retain the significance of a historic area/settlement/town, what is required is an enabling approach of 'Designing in Context'. Dr. Basu shared case studies of various contemporary interventions that meaningfully interpret inherent visual culture while also citing examples of aberrations. She further briefed the audience on methods/techniques of impact assessment, potential analysis and simulation techniques and how appropriate rules and regulations, incentives, capacity building and public awareness, are essential for continued identity of historic towns and villages.

November 2019: World Heritage Week Celebrations: Street Stories

COMOS India and Alliance Française du Bengale partnered in the World Heritage Week celebrations to create more awareness on heritage through talks and programs engaging youth. A talk titled 'Let Localities Speak' was organized on 20th November 2019 at the Alliance Française du Bengale to reflect on the history of the city's roads. Every street of Kolkata has



Sukanya Mitra sharing on Beadon Street

a history, much of which, however, remains unknown. After inauguration by Mr. Fabrice Plancon, Director of Alliance Française du Bengale, Dr Sukanya Mitra, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Loreto College shared stories about Beadon Street. Mr. Akhil Ranjan Sarkar, Conservation Architect who has been engaged in heritage conservation initiatives since 1990s spoke on Park Street. The audience of around 50 people enjoyed hearing unknown anecdotes of these two popular and important roads of the city.

November 2019: World Heritage Week Celebrations: Harmony Is Kolkata's Heritage

COMOS India and Alliance Française du Bengale gave a call to youth in Kolkata to share photos on the theme 'Harmony is Kolkata's Heritage'. Photographs submitted by 11 young people were later exhibited in the Alliance Française library between December 10, 2019 and January 31, 2020. A video showing the photos and the perspectives of the photographers was shared in the closing ceremony. This was followed by a lively discussion where the blogger Rangan Dutta, conservation architect Kamalika Bose and, heritage walk specialist Ritwik Ghosh shared their insights with the young participants and other COMOS India members.

Plans for 2020-2021

Members of the East Zone are planning to organize a two day conference in 2020 on rationality of gradation of heritage, and its legal and economic aspects in the context of West Bengal. This conference would be organised in collaboration with relevant stakeholders like the West Bengal Heritage Commission, INTACH, KMC, local bodies, etc. Possibilities of engaging owners of heritage houses, sharing case studies from Ahmedabad, Cooch Behar, etc. have been discussed. A concept note is being developed and will be shared for approval by ICOMOS India and aligning with NSC proposals. A plan has been drawn up to mobilise schools for engaging children in learning about and documenting their heritage.



Participants of World Heritage Week Celebrations, Kolkata



Harmony is Kolkata's Heritage exhibition



World Heritage Day Celebrations at Lodhi Garden 2019

NORTH ZONE

The North Zone has the largest number of members in its fold. Following the resignation of Ms Urvashi Srivastava from the post of COMOS India's Secretary in July 2019, Ms Shalini Dasgupta, the then Zonal Representative was requested to take over the Secretary's responsibilities. Ms Radhika Dhumal was nominated as the new North Zone Representative. Members of the Zone have been very active in organising various events, with a special focus on involving educational institutions and the general public in various outreach activities.

April 2019: Meeting Of Zonal Members

A meeting of the North Zone members was held at Sushant School of Art & Architecture on 1st April 2019, to discuss the annual activity plan for the forthcoming year. Another agenda was to discuss the proposed Chandni Chowk Redevelopment Scheme floated by SRDC and to obtain the views of the North Zone members towards the same.

April 2019: World Heritage Day Celebrations

The International Day for Monuments and Sites 2019, with its theme of "Rural Landscapes / Rural Heritage" allowed COMOS India North Zone YP members to



North Zone meeting at SSAA, Gurgaon

collaborate with Sushant School of Art & Architecture to raise awareness about heritage. A specific thrust was laid on "The 100 day Challenge" undertaken to save the Kaman Sarai in Gurgaon. The day was celebrated with a *Nukkad Natak*, poetry recitation and, a brain storming session on the relevance and importance of 'Rural Landscapes/ Rural Heritage' embedded within our urbanscapes. It created a connect with concerned citizens, stimulated the young minds towards 'Conservation Consciousness' and propagated intellectual discussions within young professionals.... a satisfying exercise for sure.

January 2020: Condolence Meeting



North Zone members met at the Sanskriti Kala Kendra, Mehrauli-Gurgaon Road, Delhi to condole the sad demise of Dr Roland Silva (ICOMOS Sri Lanka), Former President of ICOMOS International, on 1st January 2020. Speeches paying tribute to this towering personality in the field of conservation were made.



Condolence meeting at Sanskriti Kala Kendra

April 2019: More On World Heritage Day Celebrations

North Zone Members based in and around Chandigarh also got the opportunity to deliberate on a different take on "Rural Landscapes / Rural Heritage" with focus on the heritage of rural landscape on which the 20th century urban icon, Chandigarh, was built.



A Symposium on "Rural Landscapes" was organised by Dr. Sangeeta Bagga Mehta, Coordinator of COMOS India's National Scientific Committee on Twentieth Century Heritage in collaboration with Chandigarh College of Architecture. Besides a Keynote Lecture by the noted cultural landscapes scholar, Prof. Amita Sinha, the major highlight of the event was a panel discussion between experts from fields of Urban geography, Urban History, Architectural Conservation, Law, and Town Planning. Participants included Chandigarh-based members of ICOMOS India, students and faculty of Chandigarh College of Architecture, local residents and heritage enthusiasts.

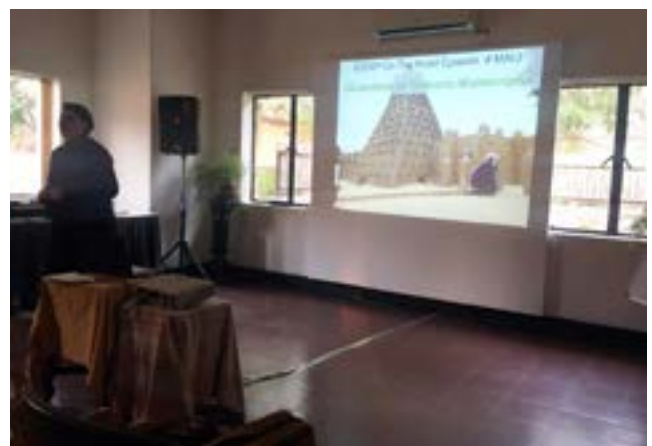
December 2019: Meeting with Overseas Expert

COMOS India representatives hosted a meeting with Dr Michael Pearson, the expert from Australia who was on a visit to the Mountain Railways of India, a World Heritage Property, as part of the Reactive Monitoring Mission organised by the World Heritage

Centre and State Party India. The meeting was held on 13th December 2019 in New Delhi. Dr. Pearson seemed reassured that issues of managing the property and protecting its OUV, Authenticity and Integrity would be satisfactorily resolved with the committed efforts of the State Party and seemed happy with the amount of information he had gathered on his trip.

January 2020: Zonal Meeting and Expert Lecture

A meeting of the North Zone Members was organised on 28th January 2020 to discuss various organisational matters. A highlight of the event was an illustrated talk by Dr Zeynep Gul Unal, Vice Chair of ICORP International, on the "ICORP on the Road" Initiative, intended to showcase stories of post-disaster response and recovery of cultural heritage from around the world. She described the objectives and the processes of recording the series of documentaries planned by her team. ICOMOS India is joining hands with the team to produce the India episode.



Presentation by Dr Zeynep Gul Unal, Vice Chair of ICORP International



Ahom dynasty's Ranga Ghar, Sivasagar, Assam. Image Source: Sankar Krishna Das

NORTH-EAST ZONE

One of the most significant achievements during 2019-2020 is the launch of membership in our Northeast Zone, with 7 new members from the region joining COMOS India's growing family. The group presents vast experience and professional domains,

Two of the members come from Meghalaya. Lyngksiar N Khongwir, an Architectural Conservation graduate student, seeking support to build on her knowledge-base, is the youngest of the group, pursuing a thesis, "Conservation Management Plan for the Heritage Precincts of Sohra (Cherrapunjee)", including 19th century interventions by Welsh

missionaries in Meghalaya's tribal society. Ibynta B Tiewsoh, pursuing PhD in Architectural Conservation while teaching at the North Eastern Hill University, holds degrees in Architecture as well as Design.

Manipur is represented by Kshetrimayum Kamaljit Singh, a Zoologist-Art Conservator, with expertise in bio-deterioration. Trained for conservation of paper, oil paintings, wall paintings, ceramics and ethnographic materials, he is working on a doctoral thesis '*Bioweathering of the megalithic rock-structures of Manipur, induced by lichen colonization*' at the National Museum Institute of History of Arts, Conservation and Museology, New Delhi.



The Welsh Mission compound at Nongsawlia, Sohra, Meghalaya. Image Source: Lyngksiar N Khongwir



Willong Khullen Megalithic site, Senapati District, Manipur. Image Source: Kshetrimayum Kamaljit Singh



*A Tai Phake woman weaving, Assam.
Image source: Krittika Mohan*

The remaining four members are from Assam. Kritika Mohan is an emerging professional, whose academic and professional engagements demonstrate her commitment to study and promote NE region's historic buildings, intangible heritage and indigenous ethnic cultures such as the Tai Phake.

Sankar Krishna Das is a Civil Engineer, an expert in MAP-GIS and disaster relief work, with experience of working with the Aga Khan Foundation on earthquake resistance construction in remote areas of Kashmir. He is associated with many NGOs and cultural organisations and has been awarded for performing on Assamese folk musical instruments. Dilip Changkakoty too is a civil engineer, an accomplished musician, known for his research and writings on traditional Assamese language, music, dance, manuscripts, especially on Assam's Vaishnavite cultural heritage. He brings with him a



A Bhowna at Majuli. Image Source: Dilip Changkakoty

deep knowledge of the heritage of cultural landscape of Majuli, the famed 'Heritage River Island'.

Dr Sanjib Kumar Borkakoti, trained in Physics, Economics, and also the Arts, has extensive experience in guiding doctoral research and setting up institutions and organisations. His string of publications on *Sri Sri Sankardeva* the 15-16th century Assamese polymath would also help to promote the religious legacy of Assam.

Though the formal configuration of COMOS India's NE Members' Group, including election of their Zonal Representative, is yet to happen, some members have expressed the need to make concerted efforts to document and disseminate the unique values of



*Community Prayer, Kirtan Ghar, Bardowa Than.
Image Source: Sanjib Kumar Borkakoti*

the cultural heritage of their region. Suggestions have also been made for involving both urban and rural youth, NGOs and other cultural organisations for taking forward ICOMOS India's mission and core concerns, especially using new age digital means. It has also been pointed out that the largely unknown heritage of the north-eastern region has immense potential for adding new areas to ICOMOS India's for scientific investigations.

A happy start has been made, albeit with mere seven members from only three of our eight north-eastern states. Let us hope that the numbers would swell over the coming years and ICOMOS India would engage in potential p, including documentation, of the rich repository of historic structures, traditional art forms and cultural practices of North-East India.



Qutb Shahi Tombs, Hyderabad, Telangana. Image Source: Madhu Vottery

SOUTH ZONE

COMOs India's South Zone is happy to report an almost 120% increase in its membership during 2019-2020. We attribute this success to the concerted individual and collective efforts of its members to reach out to various sections of the society, for promotion of the stated objectives of COMOS. For the same reason, we have also made special efforts to forge alliances with other organisations and institutions. Activities undertaken during the year are listed below in a chronological manner:

September 2019: Observers For World Heritage Nomination

Two of our South Zone members, Ar. Madhu Vottery and Er. Vedakumar Manikonda, were nominated as Observers by ICOMOS India's Executive Committee to visit "Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple, Palampet, Mulugu District, Telangana" which is India's nomination for the World Heritage List for 2020.

The visit was undertaken on 30th September 2019 under the overall coordination of Ar GSV Suryanarayna Murthy, South Zone Representative. The purpose was to verify on ground aspects of legal protection, conservation measures, available resources, and management of the property. A report on the visit was submitted to the President, ICOMOS India and forwarded to ICOMOS, Paris.



Ramappa Temple as seen from western entrance. Image Source: Vedakumar Manikonda

October 2019- March 2020: Planning For Scientific Symposium 2020

Following the decision to hold COMOS India's Scientific Symposium for 2020 in the South Zone, Dr. Arun Menon, Coordinator of National Scientific Committee of Analysis and Restoration of Structures of Architectural Heritage (NSC-ARSAH) volunteered to convene the event around the theme of "Structural & Material Analysis in Built Heritage Conservation". He also offered to seek collaboration with the National Centre for Safety of Heritage Structures (NCSHS) of Indian Institute of Technology Madras at Chennai for

December 2019-February 2020: *Heritage Education: Building Awareness Of The Heritage Of Hyderabad*

A series of four Heritage Walks for hands-on experience of the Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Walled City of Hyderabad, were designed by Madhu Vottery, Member South Zone and Coordinator of ICOMOS India's National Scientific Committee on Cultural Tourism (NSC-CT). Attractive brochures for each trail have been prepared with support from Telangana Tourism. The 2-hour walks start at 7:30 am and end with piping hot traditional Hyderabadi breakfast and Irani Chai. Four separate walks for groups of school children, other residents and visitors to the city were conducted by her on 23rd December 2019, 17th January 2020, 25th January 2020 and 15th February 2020.



Madhu Vottery with school kids at Charminar at 7:30 am

hosting and co-organising the event. The draft proposal, presented by the Zonal Representative, GSV Suryanarayana Murthy, was approved in the National Scientific Conclave held at Mumbai in October 2019.

Meetings and discussions were held to finalise the scientific committee, symposium objectives, sub-themes, schedule and logistical details. The first announcement was made in the first week of January and the detailed "Call for Abstracts" issued a week later. The announcements were received enthusiastically both from within and outside ICOMOS India. Abstracts received were evaluated by the Scientific Committee and Thematic Experts. A total of 45 Abstracts were received and 43 were shortlisted by the end of March 2020. A reviewer's panel was formed and abstracts were finalised under each subtheme after the review. Out of 5 sub themes identified, i.e., (1) Technology for Documentation and Condition Mapping (TDCM), (2) Forensic Analysis of Materials and Structures (FAMS), (3) Risk Assessment and Mitigation (RAM), (4) Traditional Knowledge Systems and Intangible Heritage (TKSIH) and, (5) Education and Capacity Building



(ECB), interestingly the fourth theme on Traditional Knowledge Systems and Intangible Heritage received the maximum number of submissions. Authors whose abstracts had been shortlisted for writing full papers were informed by the end of March 2020.

The Symposium is being overseen by Organising Secretaries GSV Suryanarayana Murthy and Dr. Arun Menon as well as Joint Secretaries Radhakrishna G. Pillai (of Dept. of Civil Engineering, IIT Madras), Xavier Benedict (Member NSC- Cultural Landscapes, South Zone Member) and Narayanan Arasu (EPWG- ICOMOS, South Zone Representative). It is planned to bring out a publication with the papers to be presented in the symposium in collaborative continuity with IIT Madras, Chennai, after the conduct of symposium.

February 2020: *Promoting And Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage Of Kerala*

Dr. B. Venugopal, Member of South Zone and Honorary Director of Centre for Intangible Heritage Studies at SSUS, Kalady, Kerala organised the "National Intangible Heritage Festival" (NIHF) from 14-16 February 2020 at Ernakulam, Kerala. Besides the senior SZ member, Er Vedakumar Manikonda, the participants included subject experts, young students, crafts persons and, other ICH practitioners from various districts of Kerala. The Festival included Technical Lectures and deliberations on themes



Dr. B. Venugopal delivering the Keynote Speech



A traditional craftsperson at Chendamangalam



Dr. B. Venugopal speaks at the Valedictory Session



A view of the participants and delegates

of “Intangible Heritage and Disaster”, “Community Resilience”, “Traditional Artisans and Creativity” and, “Strategy for Safeguarding Intangible Heritage”. Experts expounded on “Mudiyett”, Kerala’s traditional ritual theatre which is on UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage and “Kuttanad”

under-sea agriculture listed as “Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System” (GIAHS), while also discussing the way forward for nominating “Pokkali”, Kerala’s unique saline tolerant rice variety, for GIAHS. Field visits in Chendamangalam exposed participants to acts of resilience that helped craftspeople to cope with the aftermath of the 2018 Kerala Floods. The underlying tone of the entire event emphasized the COMOS India’s objective of fostering partnerships with community-based village bodies to manage, preserve, rehabilitate and, enhance their heritage. The Chief Guest and Festival Keynote was Prof. Dr. Amareswar Galla, Professor of Inclusive Cultural Leadership at ICOMOS India’s Institutional Member, Anant National University, Ahmedabad.

February-March 2020: Workshop On Condition Assessment And Conservation Of Historic Structures

South Zone collaborated with IIT Hyderabad and Association of Structural Rehabilitation (ASTR, India) in planning a workshop on “Condition Assessment and Conservation of Historic Structures”. Members invited to deliver expert lectures are Dr. Arun Menon (Guidelines and Criteria for the Study and structural Interventions on Historical Monuments), Prof. M. Pandu Ranga Rao (Geotechnical Aspects of Kaktiya Monuments: A Case study during 1987-1989), Dr. Benny Kuriakose (Approach to Conservation of Historic Structures) and, Ar. GSV Suryanaraya Murthy (A Case for Developing scientific Standards for Conservation of Historical Structures Practice in India). The workshop was scheduled for 21 March 2020, but was postponed due to restrictions imposed due to the COVID 19 pandemic.



World Heritage Day at Dalpatram Chowk, Ahmedabad...Bringing celebrations to the community, 18th April 2019

WEST ZONE

The West Zone of COMOS India includes members from the sates of Goa, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan. The Zone has around 15 UNESCO world Heritage Sites and a large number of nationally and state protected sites, apart from locally listed or unprotected heritage properties. The membership includes stalwarts, professionals, enthusiasts and students from various backgrounds including archaeology, conservation, museum professionals, heritage management, structural engineering, heritage interpretation and allied fields. Events and activities held by the Zone are described below

April 2019: Celebrating The International Day For Monuments and Sites

The West Zone collaborated with Elixir Foundation and Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) to celebrate 18th April 2019, the International Day for Monuments and Sites, in a very unique way with the community of Ahmedabad. Instead of bringing the audience to the venue, the event was taken to them. It was organised in a 'pol', at Dalpatram Chowk, the house of Kavi Dalpatram, with his foot prints on the plinth and his statue sitting in an eternal conversation with people all around. Various stage performances venerated the estwhile poet and the heritage of Ahmedabad. In addition to members of COMOS and the Vice President, Ms Gurmeet Rai, participants included the residents of the pol, Mr. Kunal Kavi, a descendent of Kavi Dalpatram, college students, AMC officials and other heritage enthusiasts.

The evening started with a welcome note, expression of gratitude for the local residents and a programme outline respectively by Ms. Gurmeet Rai, COMOS Vice President, Mr. Madhish Parikh of Elixir Foundation and Ms. Poonam Trambadia, West Zone Representative, COMOS India. This was followed with a few words by Mr. Kunal Kavi, a descendant of Kavi Dalpatram, on the heritage of his ancestor.

As seen in the attached poster, a talk on heritage, an oath taking ceremony, a skit performance and lighting up of the heritage site were included in the programme. The celebrations started with a unique tribute to Kavi Dalpatram by Mr. Ronak Raval, singing an amusing Hip-Hop Rap version of the poet's work. A skit 'Sheri Natak' by a students' group emphasised the importance of heritage through singing and dancing. The neighbourhood's residents were spontaneously invited to share their experiences and memories of the pol. The Event ended with an Oath Ceremony, through which the representatives of ICOMOS India and the Elixir foundation urged the audience to take a pledge to respect, safeguarded and enrich the heritage of the country.

October 2019: National Scientific Conclave, Mumbai

In an meeting amongst the West Zone members held during the AGM 2019 at Varanasi, it was decided that a proposal be put forward by COMOS India's National Scientific Counselor, Dr. Jigna Desai and the West Zone Representative, Ar. Poonam Trambadia to hold the NSC Conclave of the year in the West Zone.



Taking the oath for Heritage protection on World Heritage Day, 18th April 2019



Fusion poetry inspired from Kavi Dalpatram by youth of Ahmedabad

Members also favoured the choice of Mumbai for the Conclave to ensure larger participation. The idea was taken up with enthusiasm and rigour by COMOS India's Mumbai Group of Members, who pitched in to support at all possible fronts. A special WhatsApp group was created for managing the event at various stages with KRVIA, Mumbai who had agreed to provide the infrastructural support.

The Event included presentations by various NSCs and Working Groups of COMOS, progress on the Strategy Document, the IPR issue. Two special features of this year's Conclave were student workshops conducted by West Zone Members and a public outreach event on various heritage issues faced by Mumbai. The West Zone also hosted a meeting of the Executive Committee Meeting as a side event of the Conclave.

November 2019: Celebrating the Heritage Week at Ahmedabad

As a part of the Heritage Week 2019 celebrations, a walking tour was organised in the historic core of Ahmedabad by COMOS India's Emerging Professional Working Group (EPWG). The walk was curated by Er Nigar Shaikh, who also co-led the tour with Aishwarya Jain, a Post Graduate student of Master's in Conservation and Regeneration at CEPT University. A total of 25 participants attended the walk, 15 of whom were college students and the remaining were city residents. This walking tour aimed to spread awareness about the significant heritage sites within the nominated property inscribed as a World Heritage Site, "Historic City of Ahmedabad".



Exploring the living HERitage of Ahmedabad, Walk led by EPWG member, World HERitage week ,2019

Special Initiatives and Cases of Heritage@Risk

Case 1: Heritage Gate and Walls at Gita Mandir Bus Stop

Early last year, the State Transport Depot located at Gita Mandir in Ahmedabad had proposed a new PPP project on its site which had an old leprosy asylum with boundary walls and two gates, originally a fortified Sarai of the Maratha period, currently under tentative list of historic structures outside the walled city. The developer had already demolished one of the two gates and adjoining walls, and was planning to remove other parts, when the issue of razing the historic Walls and Gate was raised by West Zone members Ms. Khushi Shah and Ms. Poonam Trambadia. Following this complaint, the municipal authorities were given records and photographs of the lost heritage. Further to this initial advisory, advocacy and other deliberations by COMOS' West Zone, the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, with the help of court, halted the construction work, imposed a heavy fine and ordered a restoration of the lost Gate and damaged walls. As per news reports, the three main points of the order are: Restoration of both Gates and remaining walls at the cost of the concerned construction firm, a deposit of Rs. 1 Crore until all restoration works are complete and, a fine of Rs 25 Lakhs.



Unknown gate , Geeta Mandir bus stand, Ahmedabad

Case 2: Esplanade Mansion (Former Watson Hotel), Mumbai

Members of the West Zone collaborated with INTACH Mumbai in their legal action for stopping the proposed demolition of Esplanade Mansion, an important historic building which is a component of the World Heritage Site, "Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai". The initiative was supported by ICOMOS India's National Scientific Committee on Twentieth Century Heritage (NSC20C) and Members of the Executive Committee. The plea for demolition of Esplanade Mansion was rejected and plans for restoring the structure are underway.



Saving the Esplanade Mansion, Mumbai





PART FOUR
***SCIENTIFIC
ACTIVITIES***

*Roof of the darbar hall, Maratha palace, Tanjavur,
Tamilnadu, image by Samhitha Polamuri*

SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES



*COMOS India
Members at the
Scientific Symposium
2019*

SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM 2019

Following past practice, COMOS India's 'Scientific Symposium 2019' was held immediately after the year's Annual General Meeting on 22nd June 2019. The event was organised by members of the Central Zone and hosted by COMOS India's Sustaining Member, Sunbeam English School, Bhagwanpur, Varanasi.

The theme for the Symposium - "Interfacing Sacred Heritage, Cultural Landscapes and, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Exploring Reciprocity among Tangible and Intangible Heritages in the Context of Sacredscapes" was developed on the basis of a concept note "A Pathway to March: Sustainable Models for Tangible-Intangible Cultural Heritage - A Search Beyond Binaries" framed by Ms Gurmeet S Rai, Vice President, wherein she drew attention to the need for acknowledging the inseparable coexistence of the tangible, the intangible and the living heritages in India while framing conservation approaches, policies and tools. She specially cited the case of India's holy-heritage cities, such as Varanasi, that are struggling with the challenge of conserving historic built fabric, sacred spaces and age-old practices while also developing necessary infrastructure to meet aspirations of modernisation.



The 'Scientific Symposium 2019 offered members a much needed opportunity to share their experiences and brainstorm, also keeping in view the 'Delhi Declaration on Heritage and Democracy' and 'Sustainable Development Goals 2030.'



Visiting Kashi Vishvanatha Mandir for Mangala Aarti



Cultural Programme on Inaugural Session at AGM 2019

Objectives and Sub-Themes

The Symposium Objectives, as developed between Ms Gurmeet Rai, Prof. Rana P. B. Singh (noted expert on Varanasi/Sacredsapes and Coordinator of NSC Cultural Landscapes), Prof. Kiran Joshi (then National Scientific Counsellor), and Mr. Navneet Raman (Central Zone Representative) were:

1. Assessment of knowledge related to tangible-intangible reciprocity and sacredscapes;
2. Identification of gaps in the working of academics, practitioners, and other stakeholders;
3. Directing future action for research, practice, etc. for desired Sustainable Development Goals.

Accordingly, papers were invited for the following:

1. **Sub-theme 1:** "Integrated Approach in Heritage Management Recognising Intangible and Tangible Heritage" - role of practitioners and academia in transformation of historic places.
2. **Sub-theme 2:** "The Theoretical Framework and Current Methodologies" - policies, paradigms and processes impacting tangible/intangible heritage.
3. **Sub-theme 3:** "Rights-Based Approaches in Heritage Management to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)2030" - case studies.

Meeting the Challenge

The 'Call for Abstracts' was sent on 12 May 2019. The Peer Review Committee, led by Prof. Rana P. B. Singh, comprised Dr. Sanghamitra Basu (Coordinator, NSC-Historic Towns & Villages), Dr. Mrinalini Atray (Coordinator, NSC-Intangible Cultural Heritage) and Ms Ridhima Bajaj (Coordinator, NSC-Cultural Routes). Apart the theme's relevance to the host-

city, the 'Scientific Symposium 2019' was made special by the commitment of all the authors (who submitted abstracts, full papers and PPTs well on time), the reviewers who burnt the proverbial midnight oil ensure timely completion of their task, and the dedication and skills of Symposium Coordinators, Dr. Jyoti Rohilla Rana and Ar. Sonali Jaiswal, who managed all the local arrangements.

The Symposium Begins

A lecture on 'Kashi Vishvanatha Temple Heritage Corridor' by Prof. Rana P. B. Singh on 21st June, and a pre-dawn visit to witness the Mangla Aarti at Kashi Vishvanatha Mandir on the 22nd June, set the tone for the Symposium, which was inaugurated later in the morning with a musical invocation by students of Sunbeam English School. Addresses by Navneet Raman, Central Zone Representative, Mrs Amrita Burman, Deputy Director, Sunbeam Group of Educational Institutions and a presentation on "Recovering the Asi Ghat (Varanasi)" by Sunbeam School completed the ceremony.

Technical sessions began with three keynotes related to the sub-themes. Dr. Jigna Desai, Program Chair for Masters in Conservation and Regeneration, CEPT University, presented "Everyday Spiritual Experiences in a Historic City, case of Ahmedabad"; Ar. Gurmeet Rai, Director CRCI and Vice President COMOS India explained "A Pathway to March: Sustainable Models for Tangible-Intangible Cultural Heritage - A Search Beyond Binaries", and Dr. Yaminey Mubayi, Historian and Social Development Professional spoke on "Pilgrim Centres as Sacred Spaces: The Case of Jagannatha Puri".

Technical Sessions

Sub-theme 1 on “Integrated Approach in Heritage Management Recognising Intangible and Tangible Heritage” was chaired by Dr. Vandana Sehgal, Dean Architecture, AKTU, Lucknow, COMOS India’s Institutional Member. She also presented her students’ work on “Kakori: A Shia Shrine Complex”. The other presentations were “Bridging Gaps Between Tangible and Intangible Heritage in India: The Case of the Shaktipithas in Himachal Pradesh” by Harveen Bhandari, “Interfacing Sacred Heritage - The Christian Landscape of Varanasi” by Jyoti Rana, “*Naatu Vaidyam*: Ethno-Medicinal Practices of the Kuruchiya Community in Wayanad” by Koumudi Malladi, “*Suryaputri Tawi*: Sacredscape of a Hill River” by Mrinalini Atrey, “Loss of Historic Knowledge of Culture-Nature Harmony: The Water Woes of Bijapur” by Priyanka Singh, “Inclusive Planning for the Sacred Heritage of Kalighat Temple: A Holistic Approach for Revitalising the Sacredscape” by Anjan Mitra and, “HRIDAY & Sustainable Development Lessons & Learnings: Mathura / Vrindavan by Shalini Dasgupta.

Sub-theme 2, titled “The Theoretical Framework and Current Methodologies”, was ably chaired by Dr. Sanghamitra Basu, Professor, ARP Department, IIT Kharagpur and Coordinator NSC-HTV. Papers included “Valuing the Intangible & the Tangible for Sustainable Urban Development” by Kanika Bansal, “From Typology to Topology: Developing a Different Approach Towards Understanding Heritage” by Sukanya Mitra, “Planning of Urban Areas with Heritage Value: Towards a Heritage Precinct Conservation & Improvement Local Area Plan: A Case of Dhal-Ni-Pol, Ahmadabad” by Aditi Rai & Jignesh Mehta, “Cultural Landscapes of Kakatiyas and *Mission Kakatiya* under Government of Telangana” by M. Pandu Ranga Rao & GSV Suryanarayana Murthy, “Resilience of Traditional Irrigation Systems: Case of Kuhls of Kangra” by Amit Tandon, “The Indian Craftsman and the Paradox of Vishwakarma” by Sanjay Dhar and, “Building a Cross-Cultural Conventions Approach at UNESCO” by Ritika Khanna.

Sub-theme 3, “Rights-Based Approaches in Heritage Management to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030”, was chaired by Dr. Vidhu Gandhi of Srishti Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Bangalore, another COMOS India Institutional Member. Case studies included “The Riverfront Ghats of Banaras: Intermingled Heritages and Issue of SDGs” by Rana P. B. Singh, “The



Award of certificates to presenters

Kunds of Varanasi: Resource for Inclusive Heritage Management Plan” by Sonali Jaiswal, “Place Identity and Place Attachment: A Journey of a Pilgrim” by Sunanda Kapoor & Vandana Sehgal, “Contested Cultural Histories & Sacred Sites - *Building Peace Through Conservation Processes*: Case Study Guru Ki Maseet in Sri Hargobindpur and Krishna Temple in Kishankot, Punjab” by Gurmeet Rai, “Developing Values-Based and Participatory Conservation Management: A Need for *River Island Of Majuli Cultural Landscape and Living Traditions in the Midstream of Brahmaputra River, Assam, India* for a Prospective World Heritage Site in North East India” by GSV Suryanarayana Murthy, “Pilgrimage Routes and Sacredscapes of Ayodhya vis-à-vis Perspective of Inclusive Heritage Development Planning” by Sarvesh Kumar & Rana P. B. Singh. Gayatri Hegde could not present her paper “Beyond the Tangible: Steering Hampi Towards a Sustainable Future”.

The learnings from each session were presented by the Session Chairs during the concluding session co-chaired by Dr. Jigna Desai and Dr. Yaaminey Mubayi. Certificates were awarded to all presenters. Dr. Jyoti Rohilla Rana, Symposium Coordinator delivered the Vote of Thanks.

Closing The Event

A Heritage Walk to Kardameshvara Temple, Kandwa, conducted by Prof. Rana P.B. Singh and Ar.Sonali Jaiswal on 23rd June 2019, was a befitting end to the Scientific Symposium 2019. The site is significant as the only living temple in Varanasi that survived after major destruction of the city in late 17th century, and also as it shows an amalgam of various religious iconography in multi-structural layers.



COMOS Members at the National Scientific Conclave 2019 at KRIVIA, Mumbai

NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONCLAVE 2019

COMOS India's 'National Scientific Conclave 2019' was organised from 10th- 11th October 2019 at Mumbai under the overall supervision of the National Scientific Counsellor, Dr.

Jigna Desai and the West Zone Representative, Ar. Poonam Trambadia, with generous support from Kamala Raheja Vidyanidhi Institute of Architecture and Environment Studies (KRIVIA), and Ducol Organic Paints, Mumbai. West Zone Members, Sanaeya Vandrewala and Sweta Wagh, also Faculty members of KRIVIA, were at the helm of the organisation.



Reports by Coordinators of National Scientific Committees, Working Groups and other Task Forces were followed by discussions aimed at streamlining scientific activity. Details of the Conclave's side events - workshops with students of KRIVIA and public sessions on challenges faced by region's World Heritage Sites - are given later in this report.

The Conclave was inaugurated with a presentation on the objectives and scientific activities of COMOS India by President, Prof. Kiran Joshi. Prof. Aneerudh Paul, Director KRIVIA, described KRIVIA's research on Mumbai's historic areas and hoped for future partnerships with ICOMOS India. Ar. Poonam Trambadia, welcomed all participants and gave a briefing on the Conclave's schedule.

Reports by National Scientific Committees

Opening the session, Madhu Vottery, Coordinator, NSC-Cultural Tourism, addressed the issues faced by many of India's Cultural World Heritage Sites, on the basis of her on-site experiences. Audience suggested conducting site surveys with the help of emerging professionals, archiving of collected data and preparation of guidelines for redressal of problems faced. The report on NSC-Intangible Cultural Heritage, presented by Anshika Jain on behalf of the Coordinator, listed activities carried out in 2018-19 and various issues faced in the process. The NSC was reminded of the interdependence of tangible and intangible heritages and the need to coordinate their work with other NSCs, NGOs and local bodies.

GSV Suryanarayna Murthy, speaking on behalf of Coordinator, Prof. Rana P. B. Singh, explained that NSC-Cultural Landscapes was working towards defining attributes of the Indian cultural landscapes.



Coordinators of COMOS India's National Scientific Committees and Working Groups share their past work and thoughts for the future

Pointing out the cross-disciplinary nature of the field, he stressed the need to bridge the gap between various conservation disciplines and devise a mechanism to work across various NSCs. GSV Suryanarayna Murthy also presented the work of NSC-ARSAH on behalf of Coordinator, Dr. Arun Menon, appreciating the increasing interest in this domain by conservation architects. Discussions emphasised insufficiency of scientific knowledge, trained experts, cultural scientific discourse and institutional involvement in the field.

Sonal Karanjikar, speaking for Coordinator, Vaishali Latkar, brought out the close links of members of NSC-Training members with academic institutions. The NSC plans to collaborate with such institutions to identify current gaps between conservation education and practice, initiate capacity building at multiple levels, produce "Guidelines for Training and Education in Cultural Heritage" and, become the interface between knowledge providers and knowledge seekers. The work of NSC- Industrial Heritage was presented by Priyanka Talreja on behalf of Moulshri Joshi, Coordinator. The NSC plans to develop terms of reference for identification, categorization, protection and conservation of Industrial Heritage in India, take up a special study on Calcutta Trams, and campaign for preservation of 'industrial heritage@risk'. Activities and aspiration of NSC- Twentieth Century Heritage were presented by its Coordinator, Dr. Sangeeta Bagga. In view of the recent recognition of this category of cultural heritage, and the diverse manifestations seen in India, she also emphasised the necessity of collaboration with architecture schools and other NSCs, such as NSC- Industrial Heritage and NSC-Shared Built Heritage, for documentation and analysis.

Dr. Sanghamitra Basu, Coordinator, NSC-Historic Towns and Villages, pointed out the difficulty of finding volunteers for NSC projects. She suggested that COMOS India should acknowledge such work of individual members that furthers the NSC's objectives and also permit involvement of non-member organisations in its projects. Suggestions were made for creation of a shared portal on the COMOS website to include work by COMOS members as well as external agencies, with due acknowledgement to the authors. Poonam Verma Mascarenhas, Coordinator, NSC-Risk Preparedness, urged the Executive Committee to ensure dissemination of work done by the NSC on COMOS India's website, since this would enable capacity building of the younger members. Shalini Dasgupta, speaking on behalf of Coordinator,



Ritika Khanna and Nityaa Iyer discuss formation of EPWG

Ashish Trambadia, presented similar concerns of NSC-Fortifications and Military Heritage. Other members also felt that the process of approval of NSC projects needs modification.

The presentation of NSC-Vernacular Architecture was made by Ruchita Belapurkar on behalf of Annabel Lopez. The NSC plans a Digital Atlas for Vernacular Architecture of India in collaboration with Google Cultural Institute and, has started to collate data available with its members and other copyright free sources. They plan to collaborate with architecture schools for documenting lesser-known vernacular architecture. Audience suggested undertaking a pilot project to standardise documentation techniques. Shalini Dasgupta presented the report by NSC-Heritage Documentation on behalf of Coordinator, Bikramjit Chakraborty, highlighting the need for capacity building to match international standards and, preparation of a manual for documentation and condition mapping. It was also pointed out that COMOS is an advisory body, involved only with policy making and advocating best practices.

Reports On Ongoing NSC Projects

Progress on the ongoing collaborative project “Case Studies for Preparation of a Detailed Format, Database and Inventory of Cultural Heritage within Cultural Routes” being carried out between NSC-Cultural Routes, NSC-Cultural Landscapes, NSC-Intangible Cultural Heritage and, NSC-Heritage documentation was presented by GSV Suryanarayana Murthy, Project Coordinator, NSC-CL. He reported that while extensive literature study, especially on the Kashmir Section of the Mughal Route had been accomplished; site work had not been possible so far.

Harveen Bhandari and Nityaa Iyer jointly reported the work done by NSC-20C on the second ongoing project “Developing a Thematic Framework – Issues Concerning the Recognition, Identification and Conservation of Pre-independence 20th Century Heritage of India”. They respectively presented their analysis of the societal, political, economic and technological modernisation efforts in Ambala Cantonment’s Sadar Area and the Fort Area of Mumbai, along with a preliminary identification of historic buildings that illustrate such processes.

Reports From Working Groups

The report on COMOS India’s newly formed ‘Emerging Professionals Working Group’ (EPWG) was presented by National Representative, Ritika Khanna, and West Zone Representative, Nityaa Iyer. They shared the background of the formation of EPWG both internationally and within India. Proposals for better integration of Emerging Professionals within COMOS India and the Working Group’s future plans were put forth. The Executive Committee accepted their proposal of revising the eligibility criteria to enable participation of student members and other young professionals.

Priyanka Singh described the history of the ‘Working Group on Water and Heritage’, as also its long term aim of advocating integration of ‘Water and Heritage’ into policy development and planning processes. The Working Group is working on creation of an online repository of literature related to water heritage, making geo-tagged maps of Indian typologies, and formulating a framework for documenting and assessing water heritage. The need to engage with non-COMOS experts and institutions as advisers and collaborators was also voiced.

Emphasising the critical need to formalise COMOS India’s Heritage@Risk Programme, Prof. Kiran Joshi explained the objectives, processes and assessment criteria adopted by ICOMOS International and some of the International Scientific Committees for issuing “Heritage Alerts”. Informing of the 3 case examples contributed each by our National Committee and the NSC20C for the international ‘H@R Report for 2016-19’, she also highlighted the major trends in India. She advocated the need for a systematic approach to allow rational assessment and quick action on cases reported to COMOS as well as that for creation of a special task force for the purpose.



The audience during the Sessions on Day One

Streamlining NSCs and Working Groups

The gist of the discussions on the conceptual and operational issues of COMOS India's scientific activity and the action proposed for each is given below:

NSC Matters:

- a. Members were not clear about the scope and theoretical premise of NSC activities and their alignment with COMOS objectives. It was decided to conduct a Coordinators' Workshop to arrive at a White Paper for each NSCs. The White Paper would outline conceptual and content questions, indicate the nature of activities for generating scientific content, linking (though not limiting) these activities with India's World Heritage Sites. The NSC's rationale must align with the corresponding ISC, albeit for an Indian context.
- b. The ongoing research projects would conclude as per agreements, new project proposals by NSCs should be closely aligned with their White Paper.
- c. Efforts should be made to reduce Procedural tediousness and ambiguities, and clarify methods of collaboration and authorship. Such issues would be outlined in the COMOS Strategic Plan.
- d. NSC memberships may be categorised as 'Associate' and 'Expert' on the pattern of International Scientific Committees. NSCs should identify sector specialists, including non-members who may be invited as resource persons. Revised guidelines may be implemented after approval and adoption by the General Body in the AGM.

Working Groups:

- a. With the exception of the Emerging Professionals Working Group (EPWG), and the Task Force for 'Heritage@Risk', Working Groups are either temporary entities dissolved after completion of a given task, or ones that acquire sufficient traction wrt scientific content and convert to an NSC.
- b. It was decided that the 'Water and Heritage Working Group' would continue to function as such, becoming a NSC when it finds an alignment with an ISC. The WG on 'Rights Based Approach to Heritage' will continue as a task based group with its existing collaborations.
- c. Prof. Kiran Joshi will take a lead on furthering development of a response, advocacy and monitoring system for cases of Heritage@Risk.
- d. Working Group on World Heritage Matters: Since COMOS is an advisory body on World Heritage matters, it is important to ensure a formative presence of COMOS in India's World Heritage concerns. The formation of a new working group was proposed, with the aim to work in synergy with the International Secretariat of ICOMOS and World Heritage Office of ASI.

Archiving & Dissemination of Scientific Activities:

In addition to existing information on NSCs and WGs, all past research, symposium proceedings, publications, etc. need to be put up on ICOMOS India's website for open access by all members. It was suggested that some EPWG members can lead this activity under the guidance of NSC Counsellor.



GSV Suryanarayana Murthy discusses the proposal for AGM-cum-Scientific Symposium 2020

Other Deliberations

Review of Regulations concerning Intellectual Property Rights and Connected Matters:

A Review Committee of Dr. Jigna Desai (National Scientific Counsellor), Dr. Arun Menon (Coordinator, NSC-ARSAH) and Dr. Vidhu Gandhi (Institutional Member) was formed during the Annual General Meeting in June 2019 to look into regulations on IPR and connected matters as contained in the SoPG. After reviewing the Copyright Law (1957), Copyright Policy by Ministry of Industry and Commerce (2016), IPR Policy of IIT Madras and CEPT University, it was found that the current COMOS India Policies are not congruent to the best practices.

The IPR Committee's recommendations include:

- (i) Rewriting of Annexure 14 of SOPG;
- (ii) Reconsideration of agreements as Grant Providers, so as to be enabling with shared rights;
- (iii) Identification of conditions for external donation/ institutional partnership, especially with reference to keeping all COMOS material open source.

The Proposed Revisions were later submitted by the Review Committee to the Executive Committee.

Progress on COMOS India's Strategic Plan:

A Strategic plan, outlining focus areas and operational and financial strategies of COMOS India for the next five years, was introduced in AGM 2019. The Working Team of Shalini Dasgupta (now Secretary), Poonam

Trambadia (West Zone Representative) and, Jigna Desai (NS Counsellor) stated that they will take into cognisance all the action points as discussed for NSCs and Working Groups while finalising the document, especially as regards initiatives to build better awareness and increase capacities around conserving, managing and maintaining World Heritage Sites of India. Due emphasis would also be given to development of best practices for adopting a Rights Based Approach to Heritage Conservation & Management, safeguarding Heritage @ Risk, the Nature Culture Initiative, Development in Historic Cities / Smart Cities, and issues related to Water and Heritage as well as Climate Change & Heritage. A Draft Strategic Document will be circulated to all members for feedback.

Proposal for Annual General Meeting-cum-Scientific Symposium 2020:

GSV Suryanarayan Murthy, South Zone Representative presented a proposal for organising the AGM-cum-Scientific Symposium 2020 in Chennai, with support from National Centre for Safety of Heritage Structures (NCSHS), Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Madras. The event would be coordinated by Mr. Murthy and Dr. Arun Menon (Coordinator NSC-ARSAH) with active support of Dr. Jigna Desai, NS Counsellor. Considering the strength of the host institute, the Symposium would be themed around 'Structural and Material Analysis in Conservation of Cultural Heritage'.



Water & Heritage - Life along the ghats of Varanasi. Image Source: Priyanka Singh

WORKING GROUPS

Cognizant of the need to examine issues that cut across mandates of individual NSCs, four Working Groups have been set up, each with a core group of COMOS India members, . The National Working Groups largely correspond to the international ones, and aim to produce doctrinal texts on similar topical themes of conservation of cultural heritage, albeit orienting their work to the specific Indian context of India's cultural and natural heritage.

Climate Change & Heritage Working Group (CCHWG)

Background and History: Climate Change and Heritage Working Group is the most recent of our four WGs. It was formed in March 2020 in recognition of the growing worldwide threat climate change poses to people and their cultural heritage. The Group, with 22 participating members and Shalini Dasgupta as its Focal Point, would represent India's National Committee at the ICOMOS Climate Change and Heritage Working Group (CCHWG). Supporting the ICOMOS, our national group would mobilise COMOS members to deliberate on and implement various climate action plans.

It may be mentioned here that ICOMOS is a founding member and also functions as the secretariat of the 'Climate Heritage Network' (CHN), which is a voluntary, mutual support network of members who have signed or endorsed the Climate Heritage Network MOU and seek to collaborate with global peers to achieve its goals. The Network works to set the tone for bold climate leadership in the arts, culture and heritage sectors and, to provide an effective global partnership model for climate action. The Climate Heritage Network works on the belief that while culture and heritage are negatively impacted by climate change, they are also an asset for climate action, while promoting desirable and liveable futures and well-being for all. The CHN is committed to aid in achieving the de-carbonization goals and other ambitions of the Paris Agreement.

Objectives: Our Working Group's initial agenda is to deliberate, discuss and elaborate on heritage and climate concerns from this part of the world and, to contribute to the global agenda which was to be presented at the ICOMOS General Assembly 2020 in Sydney, Australia. We aim to develop the 'COMOS India Resolution on Climate Change and Cultural Heritage' and develop an 'COMOS India Climate Change Roadmap' which will feed into the larger objectives and framework of ICOMOS CCHWG. The

group will also engage with various governmental agencies, NGOs, universities and institutions towards this purpose. Formulation of a White Paper / Position Paper is the foremost task to be undertaken by the members.

Active participation of the members of the Working Group will contribute greatly to the overall working and representation of COMOS India both within the country, and at the world stage.

Emerging Professionals Working Group (EPWG)

Background and History: The EPWG is an ICOMOS International initiative that seeks to increase the Emerging Professionals (EP) membership base and enable greater integration of this group with the larger workings of the ICOMOS. The purpose is to maintain ICOMOS' scientific relevance for future generations, ensure the organization's continuity, and, share ICOMOS ethical tenets to professionals during early stages of their education. ICOMOS encourages all National Committees to create their respective EPWG to collaborate nationally and internationally.

Expressions of Interest (EoI) for joining COMOS India's "Emerging Professionals Working Group" were invited in August 2019. The 20 applicants who fulfilled the given eligibility criteria formed the first EPWG-India from which the National Representative, Ritika Khanna, and 4 Zonal Representatives - Aishwarya Das (NZ), Narayanan Thirunavukkarasu (SZ), Nishant Upadhyay (CZ) and Nityaa Iyer (WZ) - were elected through a transparent and democratic process. Following the international pattern, the President, the Secretary, the National Scientific Counselor and, a Zonal member of the ExCom (by rotation) were designated as the Group's Mentors

The WG was formally launched on 10th October 2019 during COMOS India's National Scientific Conclave 2019 at Mumbai. Consequent to discussions during the Conclave, the eligibility criteria was revised to enable expansion of the membership base. The number of members, following the new membership cycle of 2020, stands at 56, making this as one of the largest national EPWGs.

Vision and Objectives: EPWG-India envisions the creation of a transparent and accessible platform that channels a progressive, uplifting and enabling environment for India's Emerging Professionals (EPs) in the field of heritage and culture.

The Working Group aims to expand their membership base within COMOS India and enable better integration of Emerging Professionals within the organisation. Working closely at all levels with young students, aspiring professionals and senior members, including COMOS India's Executive Committee; it will facilitate inter-generational engagement and maintain ICOMOS' scientific relevance.

Programmes and Activities: COMOS EPWG has hosted the following events during the Heritage Week held between 18th to 24th November 2019:

- a. *Webinar 'In Search of Authenticity'*: The webinar explored the association of notions of authenticity to both tangible and intangible aspects, presenting a more holistic understanding of the term.
- b. *Webinar on 'Water and Heritage in India, the World Heritage List and the Way Forward'*: This webinar was organised with Water and Heritage Working Group, as the knowledge partner.
- c. *Heritage Walk for Local Communities in Khajuraho*: Organized by EPWG Central Zone in collaboration with the INTACH Belgium Chapter, the walk in World Heritage Site, "Khajuraho Group of Monuments" was curated for local people and school children.
- d. *Walking Tour through the Historic City of Ahmadabad*: Organized by EPWG West Zone, this walk led local students and city residents through the historic core of the World Heritage City of Ahmadabad.

Rights Based Approaches in Heritage Management Working Group

Background and History: ICOMOS has taken important initiatives over the last decade to respect, protect and fulfil the rights to culture for individuals and communities by including Rights-Based Approaches (RBA) in heritage management. The 'Our Common Dignity Initiative' Working Group (OCD-RBA WG) started in 2007 and expanded in 2011 as cooperation for the Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Convention.

In celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, ICOMOS adopted the Buenos Aires Declaration (2018), entrenching Human Rights into cultural heritage activities. OCDI-RBA WG contributed to the revision of the Operational Guidelines during the 43rd World Heritage Congress in Baku 2019, encouraging State Parties to adopt a human rights-based approach in heritage management.



The RBA Workshop with O. P. Jindal Global University

Objectives:

The OCDI-RBA WG requested National Committees to join the OCD-HRBA-network. COMOS' RBA Working Group, constituted in 2019 with 17 members and Gurmeet Rai as Focal Point, aims to establish an 'India-centered Rights-based Approach to Heritage

Management'. Towards this end, it has reached out to the O. P. Jindal Global University, Sonapat, Haryana for collaboration. A subsequent 'Friendship Agreement' between the two organisations, has created a platform for dialogue between heritage practitioners, multi sector professionals and academia in the sector of social sciences, public policy and governance to develop a road map.

Programmes and Activities:

A Workshop, "Rights Based Approaches for Heritage Management and Sustainable Development Goals 2030 - Codifying Ambitions, Prioritizing National Aspirations with International Agendas and Empowering Reflective Professionals", organised by COMOS India and Jindal Global University was held on 19th - 20th July 2019 for preparing a project document for a 3-year collaboration. The Aims were:

- a. To determine a vision for the collaboration, focusing on 'values' as in the Operational Guidelines of World Heritage/ UN Conventions;
- b. To find ways of engaging with 'appropriate stakeholders' and examine the place of normative behavior in the rights-based approaches and integrating community in heritage management;
- c. To identify 'good practices' and 'challenges' of conserving tangible/intangible/living heritages in India and, critically examining the current legal framework, as a basis for "India-centered Rights-Based Approaches for Heritage Management";
- d. To deliberate on methods for developing training material for sensitizing all stakeholders towards inclusion of human rights in heritage management.

It was decided that all activities would be informed by the larger COMOS umbrella as well as the vision, theoretical underpinnings and academic knowledge co-located in teaching, research, policy and, practice. The outcome from the workshop informed the three year program (2020-2023), which is the foundation for the agreement which has been drafted and signed between the two organizations. The memorandum of Understanding is placed on the COMOS India website

Water And Heritage Working Group

Background and History: Following the formation of the international working group on Water and Heritage at the Triennial ICOMOS General Assembly in 2017, COMOS India's National Working Group on Water and Heritage was formed in 2018. A Concept Note, giving the Mission Statement, India's Water Profile, its interaction with habitat, projected role



Talaab feeding the water systems at Mandu

and activities, was approved during the Annual General Meeting held in June 2018. The Group operationalized in 2019 with 22 members. Priyanka Singh and Amit Tandon are Co-Focal Points.

India, and the world, has been a witness to a rich interaction of water with heritage, both cultural and natural. This interaction ranges from water for sustenance, services and security, to reverence, and recreation, among many others. However, today a distinct deterioration of our relationship with nature has manifested into a water crisis which will leave none unaffected, if it continues. Since the discourse on water and heritage cuts across various subjects and issues, there exists a potential to leverage much of the understanding of traditional knowledge to address critical contemporary aspects and issues of climate change, water scarcity, water management, the urban water cycle, gender and sanitation, developing risk resilience and many others.

Objectives and Mission: The long term goals and objectives of the working group are:

- a. Build recognition for Water and Heritage (Natural and Cultural) during various development projects across the country.
- b. Develop and integrate Water and Heritage into policy development and planning process.
- c. To integrate Water and Heritage with global frameworks and initiatives such as Sustainable Development Goals, RAMSAR Convention, World

Water Forums, etc. and build collaborations with various organizations in the water sector.

The overall mission of the National Working Group on Water and Heritage is:

“Documentation, conservation, and protection of Water Heritage (Natural and Cultural) as a source of learning for the future.”

Programmes and Activities: In keeping with the mandate of the Working Group, activities which have been initiated include

- a. Creation of an online repository of work/ literature related to water heritage,
- b. Mapping of Water Heritage through geo-tagged maps for a national repository of existing typologies, (c) Creation of an inventory with a framework for documenting and assessing water heritage.

As one its first outreach activities, the Working Group organized a webinar titled “Water and Heritage in India, the World Heritage List and the Way Forward” as part of the National Heritage Week Celebrations in November 2019.

The group aims to take forward activities related to outreach and advocacy, through position papers, supported by a compendium of case studies through collaborations with experts and institutions from the water and heritage sectors.





PART FIVE

OUTREACH AND COLLABORATIONS

*Kandaswamy Temple, Rasappachetty street, Image
Source: Prabhu Chandian*

OUTREACH AND COLLABORATIONS



Heritage Walk: 'Khajuraho Group of Monuments'

Image Source:

Nishant Upadhyaya

OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

Providing 'a forum for discussions and the exchange of information on matters of principle, and of technical, legal and administrative practice affecting the conservation', COMOS India organised several Outreach Programmes for the benefit of students and the general public. A number of creative exercises were designed to celebrate national and global Heritage Days. Lectures, exhibitions and workshops were held in different zones to communicate conservation approaches, practices and to hold discourses on issues of public interest

International Day on Monuments and Sites 2019

A description of various events held by COMOS India to commemorate the '**International Day for Monuments and Sites 2019**' on **18th August 2019** has already been given in the Zonal Reports. To recount, the East Zone launched its initiative of safeguarding Kolkata's 'Maidan' and organised quiz competitions among school students in Kolkata and Murshidabad. The West Zone celebrated the day with residents of a culturally significant 'pol' of Ahmadabad, eulogising the heritage of Kavi Dalpatram, and urging the participants to take a pledge to safeguard and enrich their heritage. North Zone's members collaborated with Sushant School of Art & Architecture to save Gurugram's historic Kaman Sarai and with Chandigarh College of Architecture to discuss the relevance of "Rural Landscapes / Rural Heritage" embedded within contemporary cities.

THE WORLD HERITAGE WEEK

A number of events were organised from 19th to 25th November 2019, the 'World Heritage Week', following the underlying idea of examining the tenets of world heritage inscriptions, spreading awareness of the values of monuments and other cultural heritage properties while also instilling a positive attitude towards their conservation and protection. Members of COMOS India's East Zone engaged with the local youth through two public sessions. The first titled 'Let Localities Speak' was held on 20th November 2019 to share stories of Kolkata's historical streets. The second was photography competition on the theme 'Harmony is Kolkata's Heritage', the exhibition of the photographs being followed by a lively public discussion. Details have been given in the Zonal report. The 'Water and Heritage Working Group' and the 'Emerging Professionals Working Group' organised webinars and heritage Walks.

Webinar 1: *Water & Heritage in India, the World Heritage List and The Way Forward*

The 'Water and Heritage Working Group' volunteered to lead the first event for the Heritage Week 2019 with support from the 'Emerging Professionals' Working Group'. The webinar, held on 19th November 2019, highlighted the representation of 'water and heritage' on the World Heritage List, explored the framework for understanding the heritage of water; the role of women in Indian waterscapes, the shared heritage

of our water management systems and, the role of music in creating awareness. The five presentations by diverse professionals were moderated by Vrinda Jariwala, Research Associate, National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, National Park Service, USA. The webinar was attended by around 60 persons from around the world.

Amit Tandon, an architect and a socio-spatial researcher with a master's degree in Water Policy and Governance, presented 'Framework for Understanding Water and Heritage', exploring the eco-systems services approach for water related heritage, emphasising that this heritage should respond to various contemporary perspectives such as Sustainable Development Goals, Sendai Framework, Climate Change, etc.

Saranya Dharshini, Conservation Architect, described the subterranean water structures, especially the stepwells of Gujarat. Her presentation, 'Role of women in Indian waterscapes with a case example of Rani ni Vav', illustrated how stepwells link the socio-cultural realm to water harvesting practices in hot-arid Gujarat. She also explained that the World Heritage Site of Rani-ni-vav, with a profusion of sculptures depicting Hindu mythology, is a prominent example connecting water quality with spirituality.

Sukrit Sen, a graduate student at the Centre for Heritage Management, Ahmedabad University, presented 'Every trickle of water counts – an approach to water awareness through music', citing cases of Varanasi and Chennai, both of which



The Poster for the Webinar: Water and Heritage in India, the world Heritage List and the Way Forward



Half-submerged Temple dedicated to Lord Varuna- the vedic god of water- at Nawal Sagar, Bundi_PSingh

are part of UNESCO's Creative Cities Network, to showcase different traditions of water, music, culture, and communities. He also demonstrated how different raagas in Indian classical music revolve around nature and water.

Priyanka Singh, who has concluded her research on the Qanat in India supported by INTACH Heritage Academy, spoke on 'The shared heritage of water management systems: Qanats in India and on the World Heritage List', describing the dispersion of knowledge of the system to India and its adaptation to the Indian context. She elaborated on the relationship of qanats with nature and culture – the catchment, carrier, and distribution zone. The presentation anchored this narrative to the Qanat sites on UNESCO's World Heritage List and Tentative List.

Closing remarks were given by Nupur Prothi Khanna, Secretary-General of the ICOMOS-IFLA Scientific Committee on Cultural Landscapes and a core member of the Water and Heritage International Working Group. Nupur touched upon the cultural legacies of water on the World Heritage List and, elaborated on the nature-culture debate related to Water heritage and drew learnings from each of the five presentations. In conclusion, Nupur highlighted how as facilitators, we need to explore familiar and appealing tools such music or story-telling to engage communities, especially the youth and children, in the hope of long term protection of water and heritage.

Webinar 2: In Search of Authenticity

The second webinar, 'In Search of Authenticity', held on 23rd November 2019, was organised by COMOS India's Emerging Professionals' Working Group. The theme was prompted by EPWG International's initiative 'Journeys to Authenticity', presented at ICOMOS General Assembly 2019 at Marrakesh, Morocco. The initiative is seen as EPWG contribution to the debate on varying notions of authenticity and integrity triggered by the rebuilding of the Cathedral de Notre Dame, Paris, after the devastating fire of 2019. Contrary to the commonly held perception of authenticity being related to material attributes of cultural heritage, this webinar aimed to explore how the notion of authenticity is associated to both tangible and intangible aspects. Three heritage experts were invited to make presentations on various topics. Ritika Khanna, National Representative of COMOS India's EPWG acted as the host and moderator. The webinar was attended by around 30 participants from different countries.



Dr. Rohit Jigyasu, Vice President, ICOMOS and Project Officer at ICCROM, Rome introduced the evolution of the concept of authenticity as understood in conservation practice through his presentation 'Revisiting Authenticity: The Origins and Evolution of the Concept'. He traced the birth of the concept from a Western 'monument-centric' approach to its eventual development that also responds to the diverse cyclic renewals, rituals and other traditions in different parts of the world. Emphasis was laid on the inter-relationship between built form, people and environment that makes 'authenticity' a product of a dynamic process. Raising several critical questions related to conservation, reconstruction and originality, Dr. Jigyasu underlined that heritage conservation must ensure continuity and manage change, instead of only focussing on the material fabric of a site.

Dr. Neel Kamal Chapagain, Director, Centre for Heritage Management, Ahmadabad University, presented the 'Dilemma of Authenticity in Heritage Conservation in Nepal'. Citing rituals and practices that seemingly compromise material authenticity, he questioned how such rituals could be brought into the frame of authenticity. He emphasised the need for problematizing the Nara Document on Authenticity with examples from across the world, and suggested appropriate involvement of local communities in conservation of sacred sites. He also touched upon the link between documentation and authenticity. The last speaker, Dr. Yaaminey Mubayi, a historian and social development specialist, presented

'Authenticity and Intangible Heritage: Addressing Community Aspirations', explaining authenticity related issues that need to be re-examined in the context of traditional Indian societies, where tangible and intangible cultural heritage are rooted in cultural contexts. She pointed out that the fundamentals of intangible cultural heritage, such as transmission of knowledge, change and human creativity, contradict notions of material authenticity. Referring to several Conventions and Guidelines, she pointed out that UNESCO standards of authenticity already encompass notions of ICH, but that these need to be better synchronised. Some key questions raised by her were: Who sets the norms of authenticity? Are these norms an elitist standard imposed on communities by governments? How can one ensure authenticity in today's age when innovation is encouraged? The talk ended with considerations of the social and economic context of communities while discussing authenticity of their practice.

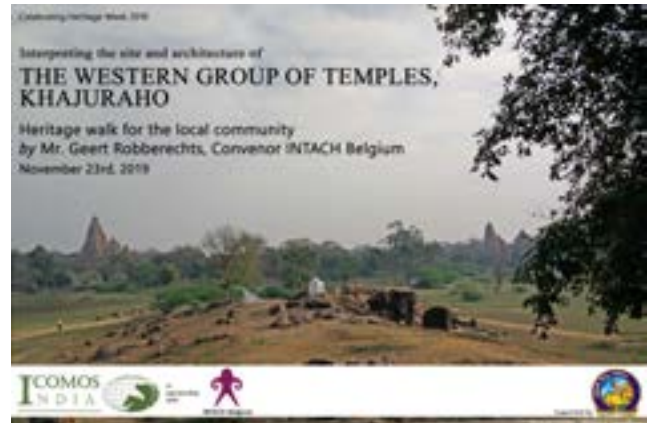
The webinar, thus, explored how the notion of authenticity is associated to both tangible and intangible aspects, thereby presenting a holistic understanding of the term 'authenticity'.

Heritage Walk 1: Reconnecting to the 'Khajuraho Group Of Monuments'

Set in a picturesque landscape of 6 sq. km area, the Khajuraho Group of Monuments (inscribed 1986) comprises 23 Nagara-style sandstone temples of the 10th-11th century Chandela dynasty. The temples are significant due to the originality of the architectural design as also the high-quality of sculpted décor that covers all surfaces, reflecting the local people's sacred belief systems. The site is merely 3 km away from Rajnagar, a Bundela historic settlement known for its 18th century gardens meant for royal produce.

Over the years, the touristic focus on the very small component of the Khajuraho erotic sculptures had alienated the local community from actual cultural significance of the temples. This heritage walk, held on 23rd November 2019, was aimed at reconnecting the local people to their heritage. It was curated to spread awareness about the planning principles of the Khajuraho Cultural landscape, the architectural and sculptural excellence of the temples as well as to sensitise people to the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site.

The event was put together by Nishant Upadhyay, in collaboration with the Walk Leader, Geert



The Event Poster: Heritage Walk through the Western Group of Temples, Khajuraho



Walk Leader, Geert Robberechts, talking to participants. Image Source: Nishant Upadhyay

Robberechts, Convenor INTACH Belgium and an expert in the history of the region. INTACH Belgium bore the costs of travel and stay for the expert and the EPWG Representative. Most of the 47 participants were students (boys and girls of 15-17 years) and teachers of the Saraswati Shishu Mandir High School, Rajnagar, along with Khajuraho's local residents. The school supported the event by providing transportation for the school kids from Rajnagar to the site. COMOS India funded the site entry tickets and refreshments for the participants.

The Heritage Walk was designed as an interactive session with a series of questions to the young participants about local rituals and festivals. A special mention was made of the Maha Shivratri (commemorating the marriage of Shiva and Parvati) which is celebrated on a large scale in Khajuraho. The participants were enthused about the site and its architecture when it became clear that these edifices were meant to narrate the account of the celestial



Students and teachers of Saraswati Shishu Mandir High School, Rajnagar at the Heritage Walk

marriage celebrations of Shiva and Parvati given in the Shiva Purana. Learning of the link between intangible beliefs and their tangible manifestation, participants spontaneously connected with the site. Dialogues were held on historians' views of the planning of the cultural landscape, the original forest-like landscape of the site, orientation of the temples towards east and, the movement of sun as per the winter and summer solstice.

The architectural proportions and the components of Rekha Nagara temples were elaborated through actual examples on site. Discussions were also held on the monument restoration strategy of Archaeological Survey of India for the site, while also touching upon issues of authenticity of material and form. The only 18th Century Bundela temple in the group was also discussed to allow participants to compare it with the Bundela architectural style seen in their own town, Rajnagar.

Post explanations about site planning and architecture during the guided walk, the participants were asked to go around and explore the temples on their own and then gather back to pose queries about the heritage site. Questions revealed the participants curiosity about the temple proportions, ceiling designs, restoration measures and site plantations. Nishant Upadhyay, EPWG Central Zone Representative, wrapped up the interaction by describing the purpose of the Heritage Week, the role of COMOS India and INTACH Belgium in heritage conservation, and the responsibility of the local community in the process. The interest and enthusiasm generated among the participants makes one hope that the event may lead to reconnecting the local community to the 1000 years old heritage in their region.

Heritage Walk 2: Legacies of The 'Historic City Of Ahmadabad'

The 'Historic City of Ahmadabad' (inscribed 2018), a 15th century riverside walled city, is considered significant for its unique urban fabric, religious and secular architectural heritage, the high quality of traditional craft and technology and as an example of multicultural coexistence. The densely-packed old city is made up of 'havelis', 'pols', 'khadkis', and 'puras' that are made distinctive due to the presence of unique designs of bird feeders, public wells and diverse institutions belonging to many religions. All elements are arranged in an 'organic' pattern that responds to the city's functional and social structure and reflect its culture of community living. The old city's climate responsive, domestic wooden architecture showcases exceptional cultural traditions of arts and crafts and the technology of building. The design and ornamentation of the monumental buildings, through a fusion of crafts and technology, also represent the multicultural character of the historic city, creating a provincial idiom unknown in other parts of the subcontinent.

The walking tour, held on 24th November 2019, was organised by the West Zone members of COMOS India's Emerging Professional Working Group. It was curated by Nigar Shaikh, who also co-led the tour with Aishwarya Jain, a student of Master's Programme in Conservation and Regeneration at CEPT University, Ahmadabad. A total of 25 participants attended the walk, 15 of whom were college students and the remaining were city residents.



Walk participants at Jama Masjid, Ahmadabad



At the last point - Deewanji-ni-Haveli

This walking tour was designed to spread awareness about the historic and cultural values associated with various tangible and intangible aspects of the area of Ahmadabad inscribed on the World Heritage List as “Historic City of Ahmadabad”. The group was conducted through significant sites such as Bhadra Fort, Teen Darwaza, Jama Masjid, Rani-no-Hajiro, Old Stock Exchange building, and Manek Chowk. The participants were thrilled to be able to access the roof of Teen Darwaza and enjoy the view of the city from that spot. A vintage car procession added unexpected spice to the walk’s experience.

Participants were encouraged to engage with the World Heritage Site in an informed and accessible manner. During the walk, a few participants also shared their personal memories and associations with these sites. It was interesting to note that the majority of the participants were unaware about their city’s heritage sites and their importance.

The Walk concluded at Deewanji-ni-haveli, where the participants had an opportunity to learn how the City Heritage Centre (CHC) has restored and, continues to maintain the property. Students, especially, were keen on gaining knowledge of details of traditional building materials and construction technology, causes of their deterioration and remedial measures adopted. Before leaving the participants were asked to share their experiences of the walk. Mementoes, in the form of a block printed jute bag with a specially designed bookmark that doubled as a map with information on the route and sites they would be visiting, were given to each participant.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT: LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS

Zonal Endeavours: As mentioned earlier, the East Zone organised a public discussion on 4th June 2019 to re-invigorate the cultural and environmental significance of Kolkata’s Maidan. Another lecture, “New Buildings in Historic Settings: Designing in Context”, held in September 2019, highlighted methods of retaining the inherent visual culture, rituals and practices, and quality of living in new designs in historic places. Members of the South Zone also organised the “National Intangible Heritage Festival” from 14th to 16th February 2020 to deliberate on themes of ‘Intangible Heritage and Disaster’, ‘Community Resilience’, ‘Traditional Artisans and Creativity’ and, ‘Strategy for Safeguarding Intangible Heritage’.

Lectures and Discussions: Mumbai’s Cultural and Natural Heritage

The National Scientific Conclave 2019 was seen as an opportunity to engage with Mumbai’s residents on issues of conservation and management of their city’s heritage. A post-symposium Public Session, comprising lectures and a panel discussion, was organised on 11th October 2019.

The session was formally inaugurated by COMOS India Vice President, Gurmeet Rai and KRIVIA Director Aneerudha Paul, extending a warm welcome to the participants and speakers. Dr. Jigna Desai, National Scientific Councilor, provided a thematic introduction. The session was moderated by Poonam Trambadia, West Zone Representative.



Nityaa Iyer introduces Esplanade Mansion and its threat of demolition



The Panel Discussion. L to R: Gurmeet Rai, Rajan Jaykar, Nityaa Iyer, Shweta Wagh, Aneerudh Paul

A set of three enriching presentations, outlining some renowned and stimulating projects, were delivered by conservation professionals based in Mumbai. The first speaker, Shweta Wagh, Associate Professor at KRVI and a member COMOS India, talked about the “Mumbai Coastal Road Project” and the devastating consequences it will have for the city’s natural coastline and marine habitats.

The second presentation, “Ebbs and Tides of Conservation” was delivered by Vikas Dilawari, a leading conservation architect of Mumbai and a visiting faculty at KRVI, who gave examples of his own practice. The public lecture session concluded with an informative presentation by Rajan Jaykar, Convener of INTACH-Greater Mumbai Chapter, who explained in detail the “Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan for Elephanta Caves.”

The highlight of the session was the panel discussion on the “Esplanade Mansion - Heritage at Risk”. The panelists included Gurmeet Rai, Rajan Jaykar, Aneerudha Paul, Nitya Iyer and Shweta Wagh. The discussion was moderated by KRVI faculty and COMOS India member, Sanaeya Vandrewala. The interaction with professionals engaged with management of Mumbai’s historic properties proved extremely valuable for members of COMOS India, students of KRVI and participating audiences from the city.

The cross-learning process adopted for the session was a unique opportunity for all to come together on common platform to discuss an integrated approach for conservation and management of city’s heritage.

BUILDING CAPACITIES OF STUDENTS

Yet another set of events conducted after the National Scientific Conclave 2019 were two workshops with students of the host institution, Kamala Raheja Vidyaniidhi Institute for Architecture and Environment Studies (KRVI). Both workshops were conducted on 12th October 2019.



Workshop 1: “Know your 20th Century Heritage”

The first workshop, “Know your 20th Century Heritage” was conceived and conducted by COMOS India’s National Scientific Committee on 20th Century Heritage. The team comprising Saranya Dharshini, Nityaa Iyer, Jatin Ambani and Sanaeya Vandrewala was supported by Dr. Sangeeta Bagga, Convenor. A total of 55 students participated. The comprehensive two-hour workshop aimed at introducing approaches for understanding the values and for identification of 20th century heritage, emphasising its rich diversity, reflecting on the new socio-cultural philosophies and technologies that caused a break from traditional architectural forms, design and use of materials. The workshop brought out the crucial need for comprehensive research frameworks for identification and conservation of 20th century heritage.

The session began with three lectures – “Introduction to 20th Century Heritage” by Saranya Dharshini, Associate Conservation Architect at Abha Narain Lambah Associates; “An Introductory Guide on Identifying Art Deco Buildings” by Nityaa Iyer, Head of Documentation and Research, Art Deco Mumbai Trust; and “An Introduction to 20th Century Materials and Construction” by Mr. Jatin Ambani, Managing Director, Advice Consultants.



Participants of the Workshops organised on the 3rd day of NSC Conclave on 12th October, 2019

The speakers also explored the listing system through illustrating the process for identifying and listing of 20th century heritage in Mumbai as the ongoing research work by NSC-20C. As a capacity building exercise, the students were provided with list of heritage buildings from Mumbai to carry out a grading exercise according to the themes and sub-themes developed with reference of the Getty Framework. The working session was conducted in an interactive style, familiarising students with methods of grading based on social, cultural, economic, political and technological significance.

Upon completion of the workshop, the participants had gained introduction to the concept of '20th century heritage' and its identity and place in relation to various types of heritages, developed an understanding of the underlying philosophies of values associated with 20th century heritage, gained basic knowledge of the approaches to identification and listing process of 20th century heritage and, had become aware and developed critical thinking about the heritage of our recent past.

Workshop 2: Maritime Mumbai - An Odyssey

The second Students' Workshop titled "Maritime Mumbai - An Odyssey" was conducted by Commodore Odakkal Johnson, Director and Head of Research, Maritime History Society, Mumbai. The objective was to sensitise students to the Maritime Heritage of Mumbai which is a vital part of an historically important harbour and trade city of 20th century, and needs to be understood, identified and conserved.

The programme opened with the presentation 'An Overview of the Maritime Domain and Heritage'. This was followed by a 40-minute Audio Visual account of Mumbai, titled, 'Maritime Mumbai and Odyssey' and, another 30-minute presentation on 'Island batteries of Mumbai'. The workshop concluded with an interactive session, during which Commodore Johnson also discussed possible engagement opportunities with the students. The workshop was arranged by COMOS India member, Kirtida Unwala.



Commodore Odakkal Johnson has authored "Timeless Wake – The Legacy of Royal Indian Navy in World War II" and, has co-edited a compilation of "Essays in Maritime Studies – Vol III," both published by Maritime History Society, Mumbai in 2013 and 2016.



Panoramic View of Ramappa Temple . Image Source: Madhu Gopal

INSTITUTIONAL COLLABORATIONS

This section describes various initiatives and activities undertaken by COMOS India during 2019-20 to fulfil its objectives of collaborating with ICOMOS and national organisations. The collaborative project with ICOMOS-ICORP also fulfils the Society's objective of promoting greater cooperation, understanding and exchange within the SAARC territories.

Observers during ICOMOS Technical Evaluation Mission

The Evaluation Unit of ICOMOS contacted COMOS in June 2019 to ascertain the National Committee's willingness for observing the Technical Evaluation Mission to "Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple, Palampet, Telangana, India", nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List in 2020. The purpose was to record independent observations on the procedure followed by various stakeholders during the Mission, and, to suggest means to improve the nomination and management of the site.

It may be mentioned here that the Ramappa Temple was constructed during the early 13th century under the patronage of the Kakatiyan kings. It lies at about 65 km from Warangal, close to the Ramappa Lake, situated in a valley of a hill landscape. The natural setting also contains the age-old irrigation systems

and man-made tanks, which are integral parts of the cultural resources of Kakatiya period. The Ramappa Temple itself signifies the distinct architectural pattern, style, science of material selection and building technology of the period and the region. The site is an outstanding example of temple architecture evolution illustrating a phase of development in South India. With intricate carvings and exhibiting local innovation in temple building influenced by the *Kakatiyan* sculptor, the example showcases the patronisation of art, music and dance by Kakatiyas. The ingenuity of Kakatiya sculptors is manifest in the adroit craftsmanship and flawless carving and polishing technique in stone craft. *The* sculptural art and decoration specific to the time and Kakatiyan Empire become the main justification for stating the property's Outstanding Universal Value.

The Observers' visit was preceded by a meeting between ICOMOS Expert Mr. Vasu Poshyanandana, and representatives of Executive Committee, COMOS India. The meeting, held on 23rd September 2019 at New Delhi, was attended by the Secretary, Ms Shalini Dasgupta, the Treasurer, Ms Sangeeta Bais, the South Zone Representative, GSV Suryanarayana Murthy and, officers from Directorate of Heritage Telangana. The International Expert visited the site from 24th to 26th September 2019. The two COMOS India Observers, Manikonda Vedakumar and Madhu Vottery, visited the nominated property independently on 30th September 2019.



Meeting of ICOMOS Expert with representatives of COMOS Executive Committee and officers of Telangana Heritage Board

Observations have been submitted the Evaluation Unit of ICOMOS regarding use of appropriate national protective mechanisms, further measures that could enhance the legal protection of the property, and, adequacy of protection measures in the buffer zone. Recommendations were also given for enhancing conservation measures, availability of human, technical and financial resources, improving the management of the property, especially tourism management, risk preparedness and monitoring, including state of conservation. Comments were made on the strengths and weaknesses of the site, and, the proposed Outstanding Universal Value.

Agreement of Cooperation: COMOS India and O.P. Jindal Global University

COMOS India and the O. P. Jindal Global University (JGU) have established ties of cooperation to promote the programme titled “Building Capacity to support Rights-based Approaches in Heritage Management: Learning from the Research of Existing Heritage practice, Management Systems, and Legal Frameworks”.

Human rights issues have been an integral aspect of UNESCO’s mission and work. The Universal Declaration on Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 1948. While rights issues are not explicitly mentioned in the 1972 World Heritage Convention, its strategic objective, “To enhance the role of communities in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention” underscores the need to respect and support communities involved in World Heritage processes.

Several case examples of the implementation of the World Heritage have brought out the importance of finding constructive solutions where World Heritage processes intersect with the rights of indigenous, cultural and local communities associated with World Heritage properties. ICOMOS, IUCN, and ICCROM, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre, continue to collaborate for promoting enabling conditions as well as for developing tools to ensure appropriately consideration of rights issues.

COMOS India and O. P. Jindal Global University propose to take forward the RBA issue through collaborative research, policy-making, and capacity building. The Agreement of Cooperation is based on deliberations of the joint workshop held in July 2019.

The Agreement would focus on the following:

- a. Needs Assessment: Studies would be conducted to assess needs of institutions dealing with heritage management and related areas towards adopting a rights-based approach. The expected outcome is an ‘Evidence Dossier’;
- b. Research and Case Studies: Research studies of World Heritage Sites, along with reviews of legal frameworks, heritage conservation policies, and practice to assess application of Rights-Based Approaches in heritage management. The outcome includes publications, a symposium, a template for mapping issues and, a white paper;
- c. Capacity Building: Development of programmes, training modules and manuals for building capacity of conservation practitioners, heritage managers, institutions, and heritage related/centered development, including cultural tourism.

Collaboration with DUHF

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has constituted ‘Delhi Urban Heritage Foundation’ (DUHF) under the Delhi Development Act 1957, with a view to safeguard the built and natural heritage of the city through collaborative effort of all concerned. The foundation comprises of senior officers of DDA and other appointed professionals from related fields of work. DDA expressed the need for involvement of COMOS India in policy related matters for heritage in Delhi. Ms. Gurmeet Rai, Ms. Urvasi Srivastava and Ms. Shalini Dasgupta have been appointed as members of DUHF and its various sub - committees. An in-principle agreement on advisory role of COMOS India to guide DUHF on heritage matters has been discussed and formalised.



*Dr. Zeynap Gul Unal being honoured at a local Sikh shrine.
Image Source: Gurmeet Rai*

“ICORP-On The Road Project: Episode 6 - Kartarpur Corridor”

‘Millions of people in different parts of the world suffer from devastation caused by disasters and conflicts every year. Once the dust settles down, those who are alive have to move on. But what makes them overcome the intense trauma of losing their loved ones, homes and livelihoods? This is a significant question to be answered so that every individual can have an idea on what happens and, how one survives such circumstances.

Pursuing the aim of sharing these experiences and the knowledge gained during crisis, ICOMOS-ICORP (International Scientific Committee on Risk Preparedness) launched, in 2018, an initiative

“ICORP-On The Road” in partnership with TAMIR (Yıldız Technical University Research Center for Preservation of Historical Heritage) to record inspiring stories of post-disaster response and recovery of cultural heritage from around the world. These are stories of survival, of people rebuilding their lives by saving physical remnants of their pasts and their collective memories.

The purpose of “ICORP-On The Road Project” is to transmit, to a wide circle, the contribution of heritage experts and local communities towards rehabilitation of cultural heritage sites affected by natural or human induced disasters, the communicate the importance of post-disaster recovery of cultural heritage within the frame of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, to give inspiration to historical sites and their users who are in the process of recovery and, create a comprehensive visual archive for future research.

To date, the ICORP on the Road Team, supported by the concerned ICOMOS national committees, has produced five documentaries of untold stories from Nepal, Turkey, Mali, Pakistan and Brazil. The Project Coordinator and Director, Prof. Dr. Zeynap Gul Unal, approached ICOMOS India to collaborate and support the making of an episode in India. She proposed that given the theme of the scientific symposium at the General Assembly 2020 was ‘Shared Heritage & Shared Responsibility’, the story of the ‘Kartarpur Corridor’ (a recent initiative of Government of Pakistan and Government of India) be considered for this episode. The Executive Committee of ICOMOS India accepted this proposal as it considered that collaboration and dialogue between the two countries around its shared heritage, is very important to foster goodwill, peace and understanding.



ICORP on the Road: Episode 6 Team on the site. Image Source: Gurmeet Rai

The Episode 6- India

In 1947 two independent nations – India and Pakistan - were created. The borders of Punjab on the west and Bengal on the east witnessed large scale migration of communities, the Muslim population moved into Pakistan and Hindus, Sikhs and others, into India. Communities were uprooted from their homes. They brought with them memories of lost lands, culture and associations. In a recent joint effort of both the governments, Pakistan and India, a 'corridor' has been created as a passage for the Sikh community to visit a very important religious shrine in Pakistan, Kartarpur – a holy place associated with Guru Nanak (the first Guru of the Sikhs) without a visa. This is the first time, since 1947, that an effort has been made by the two countries, India and Pakistan to use the power of cultural heritage for building peace and understanding.

The ICORP-On The Road Episode 6 - "*Kartarpur Corridor- Collective memories of Connected histories*" shows the engagement of the local community in taking care of the heritage of the 'other' as a service. It further challenges the notion of whose heritage is it in times of displacement. It probes the relationship between cultural heritage and the local community, those 'displaced' and further, the 'relocated'. The production of the film commenced in January 2020, with plans for completion by August 2020. Support from government and non-government sources is being sought for the project.

'Diaspora Celebrations': Collaboration With Australia ICOMOS

As part of the twentieth Triennial ICOMOS General Assembly (GA2020), which was to be held in Sydney between 1st and 10th October 2020, the host, Australia ICOMOS, proposed a programme 'Diaspora' - Sharing Global Heritage in Australia', seeking to celebrate the diasporic heritage of post-contact Australia. COMOS India was invited by Australia ICOMOS, as one of the four National Committees, to participate in the Diaspora Celebrations programme. The initial discussions were carried between former Australia ICOMOS President Ian Travers, Vice President COMOS India Gurmeet Rai and, Institutional Member COMOS India Vidhu Gandhi. COMOS India drafted a proposal that was circulated amongst its Executive Committee members before being given the final shape.

The central idea of the COMOS India proposal is to explore how tradition and heritage find expressions within the Indian communities in Sydney. Exhibitions, pop up migration museums and panel discussions are proposed as possible outcomes of the event. The proposal which seeks to engage Indian origin community groups in Sydney as part of the proposed events was circulated by COMOS India via email to a number of community groups in Sydney. So far three community groups have approached COMOS India to take part in the event.

One of these organisations is 'Turbans 4 Australia' (T4A), a Sikh charity organisation in Sydney, which aims to increase awareness and educate Australians about Sikh culture through community-based events, charitable work with homeless and vulnerable communities in and around Sydney, and relief efforts during disasters. T4A proposes to participate at the GA2020 by hosting a panel discussion that seeks to explore the lives and identities of young Sikh women and girls who negotiate two distinct cultural identities – one of being Sikh and the other of being Australian. T4A also hopes to showcase its own work at the GA2020 through a series of hands-on workshops, and cultural activities so as to increase visibility of the Sikh diaspora in Australia.

The second organisation that has expressed an interest in COMOS India's proposal is the 'Australian Indian Historical Society Inc'(AIHS), which is a non-profit group interested in researching, preserving and publicising Australian Indian History with the aim of reducing racism in the community. AIHS has proposed a panel discussion led by one of its founders, Len Kenna, to highlight the history, heritage and culture that Indian migrant communities have been bringing with them to Australia. They have also proposed a pop-up exhibition comprising AIHS books, booklets, paintings and pamphlets that capture the shared cultural legacy between Indian diasporic communities and the larger Australian community.

The third group keen to participate in the GA2020 Diaspora Celebrations event is the 'Sydney Sindhi Association' (SSA). However, discussions were stalled along with others, owing to the coronavirus pandemic, but it is hoped that in the coming time there will be some resolution as to the nature of the different groups participation, which at the moment is also contingent on Australia ICOMOS's decision on a prospective date for the 2020 General Assembly in Sydney.



Ruins of church built of coral and brick, Dhanushkodi, Tamilnadu, image by Samhitha Polamuri



PART SIX

***PROTECTING
OUR
HERITAGE***

PROTECTING OUR HERITAGE



*Esplanade Mansion:
World Heritage@Risk*

FORMALISING HERITAGE ALERTS

Over the years, COMOS India has been receiving – directly as well as through ICOMOS Secretariat - several appeals for safeguarding of heritage properties threatened by a variety of factors and situations. Suitable action has been taken to support the conservation of the properties at risk on a case-to-case basis, using the expertise of members of the Executive Committee and the National Scientific Committees. However, a need has been felt to set up a dedicated Working Group to proactively engage with matters of 'Heritage at Risk'. In conformity with the ICOMOS guidelines and procedures, the primary objective of the Working Group would be to institute a formal Heritage Alert process to enable an ethical, credible and accurate assessment of the significance of the properties as well as the threats confronting them, thereby promoting good conservation solutions and timely action. The Heritage Alerts would enable rigorous significance assessment of heritage through analysis of history, fabric, form, function, use and design intent, also recognizing the importance of conserving the ideas and philosophies underlying the built form. A National Heritage Alert Assessment Template, with a simple and clear response methodology will be created to ensure timely and effective response. Since the members work on a voluntary basis, temporary Heritage Alert Advocacy sub-Committees may be set up to deal with individual cases. The 'Safeguarding Heritage Working Group'- operating at the Zonal and National level - would also be tasked with maintaining a list of properties at risk, following up on Heritage Alert actions and, providing input for the ICOMOS Heritage at Risk Report.

ACTION TAKEN

This section discusses the action taken by COMOS India during 2019-20 to address actual and potential risks threat to two nationally significant historic properties. Besides stressing on the importance of adopting a conservation-led methodology is essential to combat risks to the authenticity, integrity and the cultural significance of the properties, COMOS India also underlined the necessity of engaging with stakeholders and addressing the multi-layered sensitivities of tangible and intangible heritage.

Case 1: The 'Vishvanatha Dham Corridor Project' at Varanasi

Introduced in mid-2018, the 47,000 sq.m Vishvanatha Dham Corridor Project at Varanasi, is considered as one of the most intrusive attempt to 'redevelop' the historic landscape of the city. Varanasi's Vishvanatha Temple, though considered as the holy city's epicenter, was traditionally structured within its multi-nucleated, meandering streets. Conferring singular importance to the Vishvanatha Temple, and linking it to three of the Ghats on the Ganga through a wide corridor and large piazzas, has radically altered the city's age-old urban fabric. The demolition of about 250 properties acquired for redevelopment also exposed some 51 historical temples that had not been accounted for in the new design.

The project site was visited in June 2019 by COMOS India members who had met in Varanasi for the Annual General Meeting. There was a consensus among members that since Varanasi is one of the cities in the 'Creative Cities Network of UNESCO',

COMOS India, in its advisory capacity, must advice concerned authorities of risks posed to the historic city in case a technically-appropriate conservation approach was not integrated in the planning and design of the ongoing 'Vishvanatha Dham Project'. It was stressed that, since Varanasi is a globally significant, sacred historic centre of knowledge and culture, the proposal for the 'Vishvanatha Dham Project' should also address the multiple cultural, historic and social sensitivities that are intrinsic to Varanasi, and the significance of which is cherished by its residents and visitors alike.

The representation, signed by 35 members, was sent on 9th July, 2019 to the Chief Executive Officer of Shri Kashi Vishvanatha Special Area Development Board who was urged to:

- Establish a dialogue with citizens and local experts to address multiple sensitivities of the tangible and intangible heritage of the sacred city;
- Make efforts to integrate the project area's embedded knowledge systems in the development plan as well as the associated conservation works;
- Ensure that planned interventions conserve and valorise the existing heritage artefacts, involving conservation professionals in the team;
- Undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment of the project and carry out appropriate mitigation measures.

COMOS India has been informed through informal sources that conservation architects have now been included in the project team. Stakeholder workshops and interactions with local expert have also been introduced.



The Vishvanatha Dham Corridor Project, Varanasi: Demolition of historic properties to clear the way for the 'Corridor'

Case 2: Demolition of Esplanade Mansion, Mumbai

Concerned by extensive newspaper coverage of the proposed demolition of 'Esplanade Mansion' (erstwhile 'Watson's Hotel'), COMOS India wrote to the President of Maharashtra Housing & Area Development Authority (MHADA) on 10th June 2019, expressing deep concern against the threat to the historic property.

It was pointed out that the structure is significant as Mumbai's first "well-equipped, European type" hotel and a testimony to the city's emergence as a global commercial centre. The structure is reputed to be the first multi-storey, fully framed residential building in the world, the most technically accomplished exported building of the 19th century, and a modern interpretation of Mumbai's domestic vernacular architecture. Since the Esplanade Mansion is an integral component of the UNESCO World Heritage property 'Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai' (inscribed 2018), the letter pointed out that its demolition (or inappropriate alteration) would result in loss of the property's 'Integrity', 'Authenticity' and 'Outstanding Universal Value', thus putting the entire ensemble at risk of being listed as an endangered site by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.

The letter drew attention to the categorical recommendations in ICOMOS' Advisory Body's Evaluation asking that the State Party should "Undertake urgent conservation of the grade II-A building, the former Watson's Hotel (known at present as Esplanade Mansion)". COMOS India recommended that the building be conserved as per the recommendations in ICOMOS' Advisory Body's Evaluation, protecting its authenticity and integrity. For this, comprehensive scientific investigation and structural analysis should be carried out by experts in cast iron restoration. Consultations with all stakeholders were advised for a sustainable outcome.

In September 2019, COMOS India received a formal request from the Convenor, INTACH, Greater Mumbai Chapter to tender technical advice with respect to the public interest litigation filed by them in Bombay High Court for preventing the demolition of Esplanade Mansion. COMOS was asked whether such a demolition of the historic building or, its destruction due to inaction/neglect, could adversely impact the WH status of the entire Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensemble of Mumbai, and, whether the loss could affect the credibility of Government of India.



Esplanade Mansion: Top: View from the road shows the frame structure; Centre and bottom: Internal Courtyard, balconies with cast iron railings and other details

COMOS India was also requested to cite the provisions under which UNESCO's World Heritage Committee could initiate action/s. Referring to various documents, COMOS India advised that the Esplanade Mansion is an essential component of "The Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensemble of Mumbai" as well as the "Statement of Outstanding Universal Value" adopted at the time of its inscription.

It was also pointed out that the State Party (India) had committed to ensuring management, protection, enhancement and sustenance of the World Heritage Site, including individual buildings such as Esplanade Mansion, through the Site Management Plan submitted as part of the nomination. In addition to this, ICOMOS' Advisory Body's Evaluation asked for undertaking urgent conservation of Watson's Hotel.



Demolition of the said edifice, thus, would adversely impact the Outstanding Universal Value of the entire site, and could be construed as failure to stand by the commitment to protect and conserve the World Heritage Site, besides ignoring ICOMOS' recommendation for urgent conservation. This could lead to categorising the Site as 'under threat' and, further to the setting up of "Reactive Monitoring" on the state of conservation the threaten property. COMOS India cautioned

that Reactive Monitoring is also foreseen in reference to properties to be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger as well as in the procedures for the eventual deletion of properties from the World Heritage List, any action leading to demolition or a lack of urgent and appropriate conservation action wrt Watson's Hotel / Esplanade Mansion would definitely increases the possibility of such adverse action.

Contribution to the ICOMOS 'Heritage at Risk Report 2016-2019'

In July 2019, ICOMOS National Committees and International Scientific Committees received a call for contributing case studies for the 'Heritage at the Risk Report for 2016-2019' that was being put together by ICOMOS international and ICOMOS Germany. The Report was 'conceived as a vehicle to share, among professional colleagues, information about risks to cultural heritage and to identify emerging conservation solutions, as well as a vehicle for analysing trends affecting cultural heritage worldwide that are of interest to a much broader audience'. The contributions could include analysis and overview of threats to heritage in the reporting year, 2 or 3 Illustrative case studies, solutions to these threats and emerging ideas. It was also mentioned that contributions should adopt a broad view of 'heritage' (buildings, sites, landscapes, neighbourhoods, parks, traditional activities and values, etc.) and include human-made (from development to armed conflict) and natural events in the scope of 'threats'

After consultations among members of the Executive Committee, some NSC Convenors and the National Scientific Counsellor, the National Committee sent 3 case studies with which COMOS India had been recently engaged. Another set of 3 case studies of India's 20th century heritage was sent through ISC20C, the International Scientific Committee for Twentieth Century heritage. The task was completed by 7th October 2019 under the direct supervision of Kiran Joshi, President.



The Redevelopment of Chandni Chowk, Image source: Smita Datta Makhija

CONTRIBUTION ON BEHALF OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE

The three cases studies contributed on behalf of India's National Committee largely addressed the risks posed to large historic urban landscapes of national and global significance. The account of the threat to the 'Victorian Gothic & Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai' by a proposed demolition of its component 'Esplanade Mansion' and the action taken by COMOS India to combat the threat, was contributed by Ritika Jharia, COMOS member who had fiercely led the campaign. Dr. Jigna Desai reported on the second example, "The Risk of 'Contemporising' Historic Urban Landscapes: The Case of the Sacred Town of Varanasi" to focus attention on the lacunas in the processes of redeveloping historic sacredscapes and implementation of such plans. Both these cases have been described in detail in the section above.

The third case study "Saving Chandni Chowk, The Mughal Cermonial Avenue of Shahjahanabad" was contributed by North Zone member, Smita Datta Makhija. The case veers around the scheme for redeveloping 'Chandni Chowk', and the risk the new design would pose to the cultural significance of the 17th century vista and its original design with a central water channel and plantation. The case study's report explained that the avenue continues



to be flanked by rows of shops, historic shrines and institutions, and hosts various traditional celebrations, but needs retrofitting to accommodate contemporary functions and codes. Though the historic structures in Shahjahanabad were listed some 20 years ago, framing of regulations for interventions is still pending. The Shahjahanabad Redevelopment Corporation, (SRDC), set up in May 2008 to promote conservation-centred redevelopment of Chandni Chowk, had proposed a plan to accommodate contemporary needs while remaining sensitive to the traditional functions of this ceremonial public space.

Heritage professionals were alarmed when, in August 2018, the above plan was drastically altered without statutory approvals, to prioritise movement of emergency vehicles, fire tenders, etc. The report



An archival view of Chandni Chowk

criticised the current redevelopment scheme, which places large intrusive service blocks on the central verge, for not understanding historic hydro-engineering innovations of the original design, destroying the central vista and compromising the significance, the social complexities and the attributes of authenticity embedded in the settlement, destroying the very character that made Chandni Chowk unique.

Concerned citizens and heritage professionals, including COMOS India, made representations to the Delhi Government, and held meetings with all the executing agencies. As a last resort, a public interest litigation was filed in the Delhi High Court to seek justice. The Delhi Government was also apprised of the contents of the dossier, including attributes of authenticity and integrity, which had been prepared for placing the historic cities of Delhi, including Shahjahanabad, on UNESCO's Tentative List. But since the government team consisted of only implementing bodies and, no heritage professionals, they could not understand the value of inheriting such an invaluable heritage resource.

It was also mentioned that while a few of the issues had been resolved by locating Police booths, Urinals and Toilets away from the central median on government owned locations, the relocation of transformers is still to be addressed as is the selection of appropriate technology for this densely populated heritage core. The report concluded with expressing the likelihood of unparalleled loss of both historic memory and meanings embedded in Chandini Chowk due to the proposed interventions. Both the integrity and the authenticity of Chandini Chowk's grand historic vista, as well as relationship of its visual axis with the historic built mass, were feared to be at high risk.

CONTRIBUTION THROUGH ISC20C: RISKS TO MODERN HERITAGE

Despite a positive change over the last decade, a considerable ground remains to be covered to ensure a value-based assessment, protection, scientific conservation of India's recent heritage. Three cases that illustrate the current situation were contributed by NSC20C-ISC20C members, Kiran Joshi and Annabel Mascarenhas Lopez. Functional and aesthetic obsolescence and absence of protective legislation are the most common risks to our Modern Heritage.

Case Study 1: Demolition of 'Hall of Nations Complex, New Delhi'

The first report concerned the demolition, in April 2017, of the 'Hall of Nations Complex', featuring the world's largest cast-in-situ concrete space frame, and an undisputed marker in India's post-independence architectural history. The structure, built in 1972 as the focus of New Delhi's permanent exhibition venue, was designed by architect Raj Rewal and structural engineer Mahendra Raj. It had continued to serve its original purpose and was structurally sound. Citing the inadequacy and obsolescence of the original design, facilities and infrastructure to meet needs of 21st century exhibitions, a plan was mooted for an ambitious, state-of-the art 'Integrated Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre'. The Hall of Nations Complex, along with other landmark permanent structures, was marked for demolition.



The Hall of Nations Complex before demolition
Image source: Kiran Joshi



Kala Academy, Panjim, Goa. Image Source: Annabel Lopez

The announcement caused concerned citizens, architects and heritage professionals from within and outside India to make appeals, including PILs, for recognition and protection of the structures. But, all efforts proved futile as Delhi's Heritage Regulations offer protection only to pre-1947, pre-Independence structures. On the morning of 24th April 2017, India woke up in shock to the news of demolition of Hall of Nations and the four Halls of Industries during the previous night. The act, believed to have been driven by real estate concerns alone, was met with widespread condemnation by architects, historians and conservation professionals.

That this tragedy could happen despite intensive public campaigns and litigations to safeguard the historic edifice, that no notice was taken of its national and global significance, its sound physical state, possibilities of retrofitting and integration into the new proposal - all underscore the need to focus on value-based assessment of 20C heritage in India.

The report also focussed attention on the learning from this case by nations that are struggling with issues of "age limit" and "value-based assessment" for listing and protection of historic properties. It stressed the importance of capacity building for an attitudinal change as well as modifications of Heritage Legislation for stringent protection of recent heritage.

Case Study 2 : Kala Academy, Goa, India

The object of the second case study, the Kala Academy in Goa, also faces demolition due to a lack of appreciation of 20th century heritage by the State Government. Designed in the late 1970s by Charles Correa, the place is embedded in the memory of a whole cross section of Goans, across all generations. Appreciated worldwide for its unobtrusive design that "dissolves the distinction of inside and outside, architecture and nature", the Kala Academy is an iconic example of Indian regional modernism.

Our report pointed out that though the building is structurally sound, the authorities have pronounced it as fragile and have planned its demolition for redeveloping the site. Many architects, conservationists, engineers and professional bodies have strongly opposed the move and offered technical assistance for conservation and retrofit. The High Court of Bombay at Goa has taken *Suo Motu* cognizance of the protests, following which, the government authorities agreed to undertake a Structural Audit and, not contemplate demolition until the report is received and studied. One hopes that this case will not go the way of the "Hall of Nations Complex", for otherwise we will have nothing to represent this period of our history.



The Central Vista, New Delhi. Image Source: Annabel Lopez

Case Study 3 : The “Redevelopment” of Central Vista, New Delhi

The last section of the contribution sent through ISC20C narrated the grave threat posed to the outstanding cultural significance of a prime urban ensemble of the 20th century, New Delhi’s ‘Central Vista’, by the redevelopment proposals mooted by Government of India. Though conceived as the capitol of the British Imperial city, the ensemble has continued to serve the same purpose for the Sovereign Republic of India. Its grand ceremonial central axis, Rajpath, is a key public space that hosts India’s Republic Day Parade.

The ensemble’s is distinctive due to its strong axial geometry, visual linkages to ancient monuments of Delhi’s bygone eras and, stylistic references to traditional Indian architecture in the monumental structures of the two Secretariat Blocks, the Parliament House, the National Archives, the National Museum, the India Gate, the Canopy and the various palaces of the Princes’ Park. That these were declared Grade I Heritage Building in 2010 shows the government’s acknowledgement of their historical value as does the recognition of this area as a Heritage Zone in Delhi’s Master Plan 2021. In 2012, the ensemble, along with New Delhi, was

included in the dossier “Delhi – A Heritage City” for India’s Tentative List of World Heritage Sites and, the ‘Central Vista Committee’ is mandated to protect the significance of the area.

Professionals, heritage enthusiasts and other citizens are concerned that, regardless of the above, bids were invited for the ‘Development/Redevelopment of Parliament Building, Common Central Secretariat and Central Vista, New Delhi’ ‘to represents the values and aspirations of a New India,’ also giving suggestions for demolition of existing buildings and design of ‘new iconic structures.’ While one accepts that some interventions have become necessary to retrofit this living heritage property to meet contemporary and future needs and standards, the government’s idea of redeveloping the ensemble as a ‘world class tourist destination’ has been questioned, as has been absence of ‘Guidelines of the Central Vista Committee’ that leaves any new intervention in this iconic zone open to subjective interpretation / misinterpretation. Similarly, protests have been registered against the attempt to undertake this humungous task in extraordinary haste, without consulting experts, or undertaking an audit of the existing buildings and a Heritage Impact Assessment of the proposed design.



Mahabalipuram Shore Temple. Image Source: Kiran Joshi

WAY FORWARD

COMOS India is committed to the agenda of 'Heritage and Democracy' and the organization is obligated to take the next steps for the realization of the Delhi Declaration by undertaking scientific research work and implementation through various programs and activities. A Strategic Plan has been developed for COMOS India to show the way forward. The vision for the Strategic Plan 2025 is based on this commitment and has been accordingly formulated. The vision enshrines within it the fundamental principles that would guide the future of the organization.

The aim of the society is to further the conservation, protection rehabilitation and enhancement of historical monuments, groups of buildings and sites on the national level for the benefit of the general public¹.

"To make COMOS India a robust, inclusive and nonaligned organization dedicated to the sustainable conservation of tangible and intangible cultural heritage and natural resources, strongly advocating the cause for the protection of the vast unprotected heritage resources in the country, establishing a strong relationship between heritage professionals, crafts persons and institutions associated with heritage, bridging the gap between heritage experts and the common people and encouraging the equitable distribution of benefits ensuing from heritage conservation²."

COMOS India through its 'Strategic Plan' has identified thematic thrust areas on which the organisation would like to focus its scientific activities. These thematic areas are important current societal issues which need to be addressed to develop good practice in cultural heritage conservation and management. They offer opportunities for developing inter disciplinary partnerships and collaborations for members of COMOS India.

To learn more about 'COMOS Strategic Plan' visit www.icomosindia.com

¹ MoA, COMOS India

² COMOS India Strategic Plan 2020-2025



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