

ICOMOS INDIA

APRIL - JUNE 2022

COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS & SITES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



2022

From the Secretariat

The April-June quarter saw the 12th Executive Committee Members meeting (ExCom 12) being held on 29th May 2022 between 12:30 – 1:30 PM (IST). ExCom 12 meeting took place in a hybrid mode, with presence of some ExCom members and the Secretariat staff in India Habitat Centre, New Delhi and other ExCom members present over Zoom.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

ICOMOS India conducted its AGM in a hybrid mode on 28th May 2022 at Sushant University, Gurgaon. The AGM quorum was achieved when a total of 194 members, including 114 voting members, were present (online and offline).

The key proceedings included:

Welcome address and approval of the Annual Report 2021-2022 by Dr. Navin Piplani, Chair and President

Presentation of the Secretariat Reporting (2021-22) by Ms. Shalini Dasgupta, Secretary

Presentation of Audited Accounts - FY 2021-2022, followed by presentation of budget of FY 2022-2023 and appointment of Statutory Auditor for FY 2022-23 by Ms. Priyanka Singh, Treasurer

Update on activities of Institutional Members by Dr. Jigna Desai and of Zones by respective Zonal Representatives

Address by Ms. Rima Hooja, Vice President

Vote of thanks by Ms. Shalini Dasgupta, Secretary

Closing remarks by Dr. Navin Piplani, President

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Formulation of Sustainable Development Goals Working Group (SDG-WG)

ICOMOS India formulated a new Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals on 17th May 2022, which represents our national committee and work in tandem with the ICOMOS SDGWG. Established as an interdisciplinary task force by the ICOMOS Scientific Council during the 18th General Assembly in 2014, the Sustainable Development Goals Working Group (SDGWG) coordinates the response and implementation by ICOMOS of the UN 2030 Agenda.

Appointment of New EPWG National Representative

Ms. Saranya Dharshini, tendered her resignation from her position as ICOMOS India's National EPWG Representative. Ms. Aditi Rai was appointed as the interim EPWG National Representative.

Appointment of New Focal Point for WG-RBA

Dr Jana Das Chaudhuri was appointed to take over as the Focal Point of Rights-Based Approach Working Group (RBA WG) on 13th May 2022.

Nomination of North-East Zone Representative

North East Zone successfully completed 2 years as one of ICOMOS India's core Zones, making it eligible to have a Representative. Following the voting by N-E members, Mr. Dilip Changkakoty was nominated and appointed as the Interim Zonal Representative for the year 2022-23 on 26th May 2022.

Appointment of Administrative Assistant

A call for appointment of an Administrative Assistant was announced following which the Executive Board appointed Mr. Abel Benny to take the position at the Secretariat in New Delhi from 15th June 2022. We thank Mr. Karan Joshi, our former Administrative Assistant, for his dedication and support towards ICOMOS India.

EVENT NEWS

Panel Discussion on 'Discourse towards Climate Change, Corals and Coastal Heritage'

On the eve of World Heritage Day celebration, CCHWG in collaboration with NSC RP organised a panel discussion around India's coastal health and heritage on 17th April which also included screening of 'Coral Woman', a poignant and beautiful documentary by Priya Thuvassery followed by a presentation by women behind the documentary. The film can be found here on YouTube, free to view. Check the report [here](#).

Talk on 'Tiretta Bazar: The Journey from Obscurity to Global Recognition for Kolkata's Oldest Chinatown'

NSC Shared Built Heritage (NSC SBH) in collaboration with East Zone organized a talk on Tiretta Bazar in Kolkata delivered by members Sohini Pyne and Kamalika Bose on 18th April, to celebrate World Heritage Day. It was organized on Zoom platform and recording of the same can be accessed on our YouTube channel [here](#). Check the post [here](#).

Event on 'Rediscovering Modern Heritage through Climate Resilience and Sustainability: Case of Chandigarh and Ahmedabad'

Chitkara School of Planning, Chitkara University and Center for Heritage Conservation, CEPT University organized a hybrid event 'Rediscovering Modern Heritage through Climate Resilience and Sustainability: Case of Chandigarh and Ahmedabad' on 18th and 19th April for WHD, supported by NSC-20C and CCHWG. It encompassed webinars on both days as well as guided site visits in Chandigarh and Ahmedabad followed by discussion of the site visit. Recording of the webinars on both days are available on our YouTube channel [here](#). Check the post [here](#).

Event on 'Climate Resilience and Historic Urban Landscapes: Inclusion for Sustainability'

The School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi in collaboration with North Zone organized a hybrid event 'Climate Resilience and Historic Urban Landscapes: Inclusion for Sustainability' at SPA Delhi on 18th April to celebrate WHD. Check the post [here](#).

Orientation, Discussion and Presentations on 'Heritage Conservation and Tourism' and Heritage Walk in Hyderabad

The Deccan Heritage Academy in association with ICOMOS India organized an event in Hyderabad with the support of TSTDC (Telangana State Tourism Development Corporation) on 18th April at Begumpet along with a heritage walk from Charminar to Chowmahalla Palace entrance.

Distinguished Lecture Program for Graduate Students on ‘Sharing Perspectives for Climate Risk Preparedness using Intangible Cultural Heritage as a Knowledge Resource’

Department of Architecture, Planning, and Design at IIT (BHU) Varanasi, along with NSC ICH and Cultural Landscapes (NSC-CL) as knowledge partners, hosted a distinguished lecture program for graduate students to commemorate the International Day for Monuments and Site, on April 24th. The online lecture hosted notable speakers like Prof. Olimpio Niglio (Director of International Research Center EdA, President of International Center for Research and Cultural Heritage Italy), among others. The lecture can be accessed [here](#). Check the post [here](#).

Special Session on 'Critical Reflection on the World Heritage Convention and its Impact in India'

Executive Committee and EPWG collaborated to mark the 50th year anniversary of the WHC by organizing a special session which included deliberations on the role, impact and future of WHC in India, held in a hybrid mode on 28th May in Sushant University, Gurgaon. The recording of the session can be found on our [YouTube](#) channel.

Monthly CultuRisk Tech Talks by NSC Risk Preparedness

CultuRisk Tech Talks is a monthly member-driven knowledge sharing initiative of NSC RP started from September 2021. For the months of May and June, CultuRisk Tech Talks [#8](#) and [#9](#) were organized, links for which can be found on our YouTube channel. Check the post [here](#).

FINANCIAL REPORTING

The quarter saw reporting of the annual financials to the membership at the annual General meeting. The annual budget for the FY 2022-23 was approved by the membership, along with endorsement of the audited account of the previous year FY 2021-22. The statutory auditor was also appointed at the AGM.

Featured Photo of the Quarter



The geographical location of Assam makes it highly vulnerable to floods. As a result, due to the close interaction with water and the surrounding environment, traditional communities of the region have developed various kinds of traditional knowledges that make them resilient from floods.

The 'Mising' tribe is one such community who construct stilt houses also known as 'changhars' made of bamboo that not only make way for the floods to flow underneath it but also makes it easy to reconstruct it iff damaged. They lead a very simple and sustainable life as they grow all the raw materials themselves and are not dependent solely on the governing bodies to provide them with relief material during disasters.

This image shows a Mising Lady happily preparing tea in her 'Dhuyanchak' (kitchen) for our team when we went to interview her for a story on resilient communities for the Living Waters Museum.

-Photo & Text by Sukrit Sen, East Zone Member

Annual General Meeting 2022

Session 1: Annual General Meeting 2022

AGM Report by Yash Gupta, Rapporteur & N-Z Member

Consolidated by Simran Deshpande, Research Intern, ICOMOS India

ICOMOS India's Annual General Meeting was held on 28 May 2022 at Sushant University, Gurugram with several attendees from across our membership gracing the event. Organized in a hybrid mode from 10 am to 1:15 pm, the AGM 2022 saw members joining in person as well as online, through zoom platform, to complete the quorum which was successfully achieved with total of 194 members in attendance among which 114 were voting members.

AGM 2022 followed the due process of approval of agenda followed by respective addresses by Dr. Navin Piplani, President ICOMOS India and Chair of the meeting, Dr. Rima Hooja, Vice-President ICOMOS India, Ms. Shalini Dasgupta, Secretary ICOMOS India and Ms. Priyanka Singh, Treasurer ICOMOS India. There were also presentation of activity reports by Zonal Representatives of their respective zones over the year followed by closing remarks by the Chairperson, Dr. Navin Piplani and vote of thanks by Ms. Shalini Dasgupta.

AGM 2022 was a successful event where members, in person and online, met and discussed the progress ICOMOS India has made over the years and also planned for a future course of stepping into a more action-based plan for conservation and preservation of heritage and culture.

Session 2: Critical Reflection on the World Heritage Convention and its Impact in India

Report by Anshika Jain, N-Z Member

On May 28 2022, ICOMOS India held a special session on Critical Reflection on the World Heritage Convention and its Impact in India. During the session, experts discussed the World Heritage Convention's 50th anniversary and the effect it has had on India's heritage.

Opening Remarks

Dr. Navin Piplani, President ICOMOS India

ICOMOS is one of UNESCO's World Heritage advisors, making ICOMOS and its national committees extremely important. We will commemorate the World Heritage Convention's 50th anniversary by taking a critical look at the World Heritage Convention and its impact, particularly in the Indian context. It has long been felt that the World Heritage process has been excessively bureaucratized and politicized, and the Western influence on World Heritage and its processes has resulted in Eastern philosophies and processes not being properly considered when it comes to the World Heritage processes. It has been suggested that the eastern processes and approaches be strengthened and included in the World Heritage nomination process.

Introductory Presentation

Prof. GSV Suryanarayana Murthy, South Zone Representative

Since the World Heritage Convention was established in 1972, we have 1154 World Heritage Sites. The Convention aims to protect exceptional World Heritage sites around the world while respecting their respective national contexts.

50 Years of World Heritage Convention (adopted in 1972)

Mr. Eric Falt, Director and Representative of the UNESCO Delhi office

UNESCO and ICOMOS have a unique symbiotic relationship. Because the objectives of the world heritage convention and ICOMOS were a natural fit in the context of the Convention, ICOMOS was appointed as an advisory body to the Convention. The task of preserving heritage remains as critical 50 years after the Convention's establishment as it was at the time of its adoption. India joined the Convention in 1977 and now has 40 sites on it. Culture and Tourism must coexist. Tourism creates jobs for locals while also providing business opportunities, revitalizing urban and rural areas, and preserving and promoting

a country's natural and cultural heritage. The more local communities, governments and civil society members are made aware of the tangible contributions of heritage to economic growth, the more agency and ownership over monuments will grow, assisting in the protection and preservation of sites as well as acting as a tool for community and nation recovery, particularly in the post-Covid world. Last year, UNESCO New Delhi published 'Incredible Treasures', a book highlighting India's 40 World Heritage sites.

Reflections in Indian Context- Panel Discussion

Mr. Janhwij Sharma, Additional Director General, Archaeological Survey of India
Prof. Nalini Thakur, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi
Prof. Dr. Ajay Khare, School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal
Dr. Shikha Jain, President, DRONAH Foundation

Mr. Janhwij Sharma, Additional Director General, Archaeological Survey of India

The Archaeological Survey of India and ICOMOS are natural partners, as ASI is the Government of India's nodal agency for World Heritage. The World Heritage Convention is the most ratified convention by UNESCO. India currently has 40 properties on the World Heritage List, and 14 sites from India have been added to the list in the last ten years, and India's journey with the World Heritage Convention is still ongoing. There is still a huge disparity in the number of sites inscribed between the Western World and the East, with the West having a much larger share of World Heritage sites. Since the creation of the World Heritage Convention, the format of the application has evolved significantly and become far more comprehensive. Preliminary Assessment prior to submission of the nomination dossier has been added to the compliances; however, it is currently voluntary until 2027, which would lengthen the time it takes a site to become a World Heritage site.

Prof. Nalini Thakur, Professor (Retd.) School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi participated from Chennai

Prof. Thakur taught at the School of Planning and Architecture for many decades and the World Heritage Convention was an important part of her curriculum. The World Heritage Convention and UNESCO emerged from the new world order that followed the end of World War II. India ratified the convention in 1977-78, and prior to that, AMASR Act was the primary regulation for monument protection in the country. UNESCO is an intergovernmental organization that treats everyone equally. Vertical and horizontal integration are required. We must reconcile international goals with national responsibilities. We must understand our heritage work to create a framework for protecting it. It is difficult to translate from the international to the local. In India, there are three parallel jurisdictions: national, state and local.

Dr. Shikha Jain, President, DRONAH Foundation

The World Heritage Convention's impact on India is a critical theme. It is necessary to understand the convention's history as well as India's contribution to it. India has both cultural and natural sites, as well as mixed and transnational sites. India also has the disadvantage of having sites on the list that are not well protected. One critical aspect that must be addressed is community involvement with the site. ICOMOS India must become more involved in and integrated into the international scene. It is critical to form alliances and increase education and intellectual capacity building. The world's heritage faces numerous challenges, and India's heritage faces numerous threats as well.

Prof. Dr. Ajay Khare, School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal

There are many heritage rules in India, but they are not always followed. Heritage bye-laws should be enacted not only for World Heritage Monuments, but also for all national monuments. In the last 15 years, there has been a lot of development around national historic sites. We also need to understand the situation in buffer zones around listed monuments, as well as individual site bye-laws. In India, conservation architects have legal authority to conduct Heritage Impact Assessments. Sites that have been on the World Heritage Tentative List for a long time but have not been nominated for inclusion should be removed.

The discussion concluded with a note that ICOMOS India will forward a representation to take the matter forward based on the panel discussion points by Prof. GSV Suryanarayana Murthy, South Zone Representative.

Glimpses from AGM 2022



Dr. Shikha Jain speaking in Session 2; PC: Simran Deshpande



Members in attendance; PC: Simran Deshpande



A member leafing through the newsletter; PC: Simran Deshpande



After a successful AGM; PC: Sukrit Sen



Address by the Secretary, Ms. Shalini Dasgupta; PC: Simran Deshpande



Address by the Vice-President, Dr. Rima Hooja; PC: Simran Deshpande



Volunteer team behind the AGM; PC: Sukrit Sen

ICOMOS India Annual General Meeting 2022 at Sushant University, Gurugram

Zone News

SOUTH ZONE

Orientation Programme on Heritage Conservation and Tourism

18 April 2022

To commemorate World Heritage Day, also known as the International Day for Monuments and Sites which is celebrated every year on 18th April, an orientation programme was organized at Tourism Plaza, Begumpet, Hyderabad from 2.30 p.m. to 5 p.m. on: “Heritage Conservation and Tourism” organized by Deccan Heritage Academy in association with ICOMOS India with the support of TSTDC (Telangana State Tourism Development Corporation).

The programme was inaugurated by lighting the lamp by Chief Guest Shri V. Srinivas Goud, Hon’ble Minister for Youth Services, Sports, Tourism, Culture & Archeology, Government of Telangana. Speaking on the occasion the minister said that the main objective of organizing the heritage walk is to educate future generations about heritage and culture and make them responsible for preserving the heritage. Golconda, Charminar, Paigha Palace, Chowmahalla Palace, etc. are very famous heritage sites in Telangana.



Orientation Programme on "Heritage Conservation and Tourism" in Connection with World Heritage Day-2022
Shri V.Srinivas Goud, Hon'ble Minister for Youth Services, Sports, Tourism, Culture & Archeology, Government of Telangana is inaugurating the Orientation Programme
L to R: Shri B.Manohar Rao, Dr.Mohammed Safullah, Shri Uppala Srinivas Gupta, Shri V.Srinivas Goud, Er. Vedakumar Manikonda, Ar. Suryanarayan Murthy.

Photo Credit: GSV Suryanarayan Murthy

Shri. Uppala Srinivas Gupta Chairman, TSTDC, Govt. of Telangana was the Guest of Honor who shared that there are many heritage sites like Charminar, Golconda, Qutub Shahi Tombs, Bhuvanigir Fort, rivers like Krishna, Godavari etc. in Telangana, attracting tourists from all over the world. TSTDC always will come forward to support the developmental activities to enhance tourism in Telangana, and in the same spirit he welcomed the idea of conducting heritage walks, get-togethers, meetings to promote and conserve heritage.

Speaking on the occasion Er. Vedakumar Manikonda thanked the Tourism Department for their support in successful conduction of the heritage walk from Charminar to Chowmahalla. In this connection, he also applauded the Department of Heritage Telangana, TSTDC, Sri. Arvind Kumar, MA&UD, who took initiation for the renovation and protection of many heritage sites of Telangana, to safeguard the heritage.

Dr. Mohammed Safullah, Honorary MD, Deccan Heritage Trust requested the government to conduct an International Food Festival to promote Hyderabad cuisine. He praised KCR Garu for his efforts to bring heritage tag for Ramappa temple and appealed TSTDC to continue their efforts to bring heritage status to

Thousand Pillar Temple and Qutub Shahi Tombs and many more in Hyderabad.

Ar. Madhu Vottery, Conservation Architect spoke on Cultural Tourism and said that heritage is all about sharing the stories, which connects people, place and time.

Dr. D. Satyanarayana, Curator, Tribal Museum spoke on the unexplored tourist places in Telangana.

Ar. Suryanarayan Murthy, Convenor, ICOMOS India, South Zone spoke on the role of ICOMOS India in conserving the heritage and on the importance of conservation of Architectural, Urban, Built Heritage etc.

Shri. B. Manohar Rao, MD, TSTDC, Govt. of Telangana spoke on the rich history of the state's tourism sector and several historical monuments and vibrant culture. Shri. B. Narayana, Deputy Director, Dept. of Heritage Telangana, Govt. of Telangana, spoke on the heritage, coins, archaeology, excavations, Shasanaalu of Telangana.



HYDERABAD HERITAGE WALK
On the occasion of "WORLD HERITAGE DAY" - 2022
Dr. Sathish Kumar, Shri Arvind Kumar JAS, Er. Vedakumar Manikonda, Ar. Suryanarayan Murthy, along with other the invited participants and students from different colleges and schools are at Walk.

Photo Credit: GSV Suryanarayan Murthy

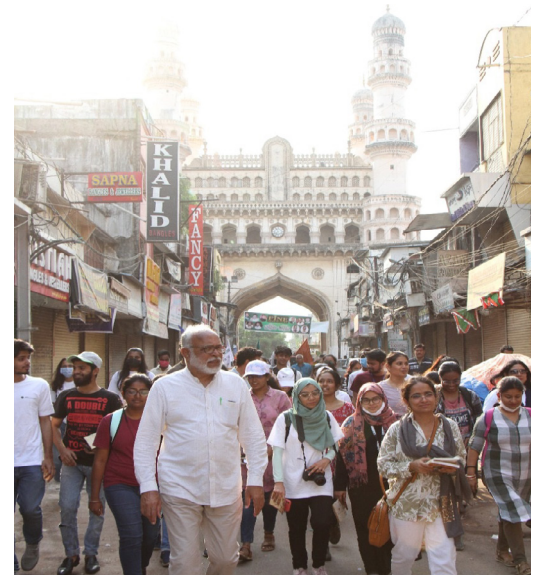


Photo Credit: GSV Suryanarayan Murthy

NORTH ZONE

Climate Resilience and Historic Urban Landscapes

18 April 2022

ICOMOS India North Zone organized a hybrid event in collaboration with the Department of Architectural Conservation School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi. The theme “Heritage and Climate” was examined through discussions and interdisciplinary dialogues.

N-Z To understand, assess and monitor, define appropriate adaptation measures, and effectively communicate among stakeholders the methods of protecting the non-renewable resources from the adverse impacts of Climate change a seminar on “Climate Resilience and historic urban landscapes: inclusion for sustainability” was conducted on 18th April 2022. The goal was to discuss the policies historic cities should develop to enhance their resilience and to mitigate the adverse impact of Climate Change.

Academicians, professionals, students and stakeholders from various fields participated in this event which included presentations, discussions both offline and online. The students of architectural conservation organized an event which included an exhibition, a photo booth and a puzzle based on Heritage sites in Bollywood films.



Image Credit: Smita Makhija

The Introductory Session was commenced by welcome note on “Inclusion and Interdisciplinarity in Research and Practice” by Prof. Dr Sanjay Gupta, Dean Research, SPA Delhi. He emphasized the importance of addressing the impact of climate change on the built environment through an interdisciplinary approach and stated priority should be given to immediate action, and numerical analysis of climate change to ascertain its impact.

Local stakeholders Mr. Anil Prasadji and Mr. Abhishek Jain shared their experience of living in the historic city of Shahjahanabad highlighting the “Shehri” Perspective and the work to be done on the mohallas of Shahjahanabad. The technical session on “Climate Resilience and Action: Integration of the Heritage Perspective” was opened by Dr. Navin Piplani, President, ICOMOS India. He welcomed the participants and emphasized the need for coming together to address the climate change crisis and assess its impact.

Dr. Rohit Jigyasu, Project Manager Urban heritage, climate change and disaster risk management, ICCROM spoke on “Mainstreaming Cultural Heritage into Climate Change Adaptation: Challenges and Opportunities”. His presentation highlighted the impact of climate change on several heritage sites and the

challenges ahead. The need for climate risk mapping and how this tool can help is taking appropriate decisions. Dr. Meenakshi Dhote, SPA, New Delhi spoke about “Climate responsive Settlement Planning and Design-lessons from our Built Heritage”. She emphasized the need for an interdepartmental integrated approach for protecting both cultural and natural resources to address the challenges of climate change.

Smita Datta Makhija, ICOMOS India North Zone Representative brought forth the issues on “Equity and Inclusion” by illustrating the impact of interventions happening in our historic urban landscapes with particular reference to the Chandni Chowk and Town hall in Shahjahanabad.

Ms Ruchi Gupta, Architect and Planner, NIUA presented her views on “Integrating Heritage in the Master Planning Process” with the complexities of heritage management in our historic cities referring to Delhi.



Image Credit: Smita Makhija

Dr Shikha Jain, Principal, DRONAH presented the “Experiences from Indian historic cities: Jaipur World Heritage City: Climatic Impact on Natural attributes”. She spoke about the values, attributes of the historic urban landscape of Jaipur and change in the historic environment due to various interventions.

During the technical session there was a deliberation on the various impacts of climate change on built heritage and the need for an integrated approach to make action plans for Indian historic landscapes. This event was both an academic and cultural experience.

The venue and meal was hosted by SPA Delhi, the students put together a culinary experience from their regions. The photo booth and puzzle activity livened and made the event memorable.

NSC News

NSC RISK PREPAREDNESS

CultuRisk Tech Talks is a member-driven knowledge sharing initiative of ICOMOS India National Scientific Committee on Risk Preparedness (NSC RP) which was initiated in September 2021. The event includes a talk by a committee member- expert as well as emerging professionals-on any topic related to risk preparedness of cultural heritage. It is followed by a closed monthly meeting between the members to reflect on the talk and to deliberate on future steps of the NSC.

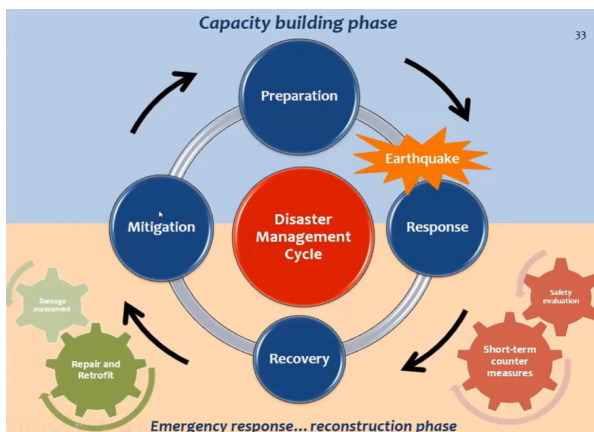
The methodology of organizing a CultuRisk Tech Talk involves contacting members with an invitation to present and speak about their work. Once a member agrees to the invitation, the formulation of the topic of the presentation is set by the speaker. An invitation mail is sent to all the members for the same giving out the details of the meeting that also contains the profile of the speaker along with the description of the theme of the presentation on which the speaker will talk.

In May and June 2022, two talks were conducted by NSC RP members and they were published on ICOMOS India social media for the viewing of the wider membership. View all the ICOMOS India NSC RP CultuRisk Tech Talks on the YouTube playlist [here](#).

NSC RP CultuRisk Tech Talk #8 14 May 2022

The speaker for CultuRisk Tech-Talk #8 is Dr. Arun Menon, he holds a first degree in architecture, and PhD in earthquake engineering from University of Pavia, Italy (ROSE School). Currently, he is an Associate Professor of Structural Engineering at IIT Madras, and coordinates the activities of National Centre for Safety of Heritage Structures (NCSHS). Dr. Arun is also the National Scientific Counsellor of ICOMOS India and an expert member of ISCARSAH (International Scientific Committee on Analysis and Restoration of Structures of Architectural Heritage).

In the talk, Dr. Arun shared his learnings from Bagan after the M 6.8 Chauk earthquake of 24 August 2016 in Myanmar, during which 389 monuments were damaged in the Bagan Archaeological Zone. He elaborated on his current engagement in a long-term project to reduce the earthquake losses in this priceless archaeological site affected by recurrent earthquakes.



Presentation slide by Dr. Arun Menon

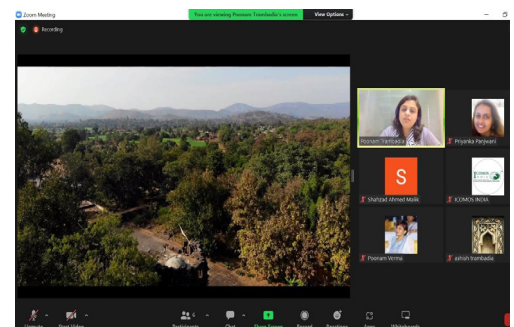
NSC RP CultuRisk Tech Talk # 9 11 June 2022

For the 9th CultuRisk Tech Talk, NSC-RP invited Ms. Poonam Trambadia who is an Indian architect. In this talk, Ms. Poonam focused on risks due to heritage tourism in forest areas. She believes that a large amount of attention is given worldwide to risks which are caused by or are after-effects of natural disasters. In the past few years, her firm has been working on sites which have a combination of nature, history and culture.

The prevalent tourism in these sites is usually the primary source of income in that area. But the insensitivity due to unmanaged tourism poses a major risk to these cultural nature sites. It is this human-generated risk that was addressed by her in the tech talk, with a case example of Polo forest in Gujarat, where she had an opportunity to suggest and apply some corrective measures.

Ms. Poonam emphasized on tourism sustainability in her presentation and elaborated different projects for the audience, highlighting the complexity of the site located within the forest reserve and the challenges and solutions which were carved out for each project. She showcased her projects from Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat and shed light on the cultural and religious significance of the sites located within the designated forest areas.

Such sites are often left open for vandalism and illegal use. In cases of religious sites, uncontrolled tourist influx and increased vehicular penetration deep inside the forest areas create human-animal conflicts, as also unmanaged solid waste and pollution. The case of Polo Forest in Gujarat was explained in detail and she emphasized on the risk to the site from increased tourism activities.



Presentation slide by Poonam Trambadia

Events Calendar

April to June 2022

DATE	NSC / ZONE / INSTITUTE	POINT OF CONTACT	NAME OF THE EVENT
17-Apr	Climate Change & Heritage Working Group in collaboration with NSC RP	Shalini Dasgupta, Secretary, ICOMOS India	Discourse towards Climate Change, Corals and Coastal Heritage
18-Apr	NSC SBH in collaboration with East Zone	Sohini Pyne & Kamalika Bose	Tiretta Bazar: The Journey from Obscurity to Global Recognition for Kolkata's Oldest Chinatown
18 & 19-Apr	Chitkara School of Planning & Architecture & Center for Heritage Conservation, Chitkara University supported by NSC-20C and Climate Change and Heritage Working Group	Kanika Bansal & Jigna Desai	Rediscovering Modern Heritage through Climate Resilience and Sustainability: Case of Chandigarh and Ahmedabad Session 1, 2 & 3
18-Apr	School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi in collaboration with North Zone	Smita Makhija, North Zone Representative	Climate Resilience and Historic Urban Landscapes: Inclusion for Sustainability
18-Apr	Deccan Heritage Academy in association with ICOMOS India with the support of TSTDC (Telangana State Tourism Development Corporation)	GSV Suryanarayana Murthy	Heritage Conservation and Tourism (orientation, presentation & discussion) and (heritage walk)
24-Apr	Department of Architecture, Planning, and Design, IIT (BHU) Varanasi, NSC-ICH and NSC-CL	Mrinalini Atrey & Monalisa Bhardwaj	Sharing Perspectives for Climate Risk Preparedness using Intangible Cultural Heritage as a Knowledge Resource
28-May	ICOMOS India	Secretariat	Annual General Meeting 2022 Session 1
28-May	ICOMOS India	GSV Suryanarayana Murthy	Critical reflection on the World Heritage Convention and its Impact in India Session 2
11-June	NSC RP	Shahzad Malik	CultuRisk Tech Talk #9

Collaborative Activities

EAST ZONE AND NSC - SBH

Tiretta Bazar: The Journey from Obscurity to Global Recognition for Kolkata's Oldest Chinatown

18 April 2022

To commemorate World Heritage Day on April 18, NSC-Shared Built Heritage (SBH) in collaboration with East Zone hosted a talk titled, “Tiretta Bazar: The Journey from Obscurity to Global Recognition for Kolkata’s Oldest Chinatown”, delivered by Ms. Sohini Pyne and Ms. Kamalika Bose. It was a hybrid event that took place both online (zoom platform) and offline at the Sea Ip Church in Tiretta Bazar, Kolkata.

Tiretta Bazar, Kolkata’s oldest Chinese neighborhood, has been nominated to the World Monuments Watch list for 2022. Ms. Sohini Pyne, an ICOMOS India member, was instrumental in achieving this status for the neighborhood. The nomination status, on the other hand, was the result of the hard work of many others including Ms. Kamalika Bose, who led an international team as part of the Cities, Heritage, Architecture (CHA) project to conduct extensive documentation of the area and to highlight its contribution to the city. Several members of the local Chinese community, as well as members of COMOS India and several ISC-SBH members attended the talk. It was well received by the attentive audience. Check recording of the event [here](#).

E-Z & NSC-SBH



Image Credit: Ananya Bhattacharya

NSC - 20C AND CCH-WG

Re-discovering Modern Heritage through Climate Resilience and Sustainability: Case of Chandigarh and Ahmedabad

18 &19 April 2022

Chitkara School of Planning and Architecture (CSPA, Chitkara University) and Center for Heritage Conservation (CHC, CEPT University) collaborated as institutional members of ICOMOS India to celebrate the International Day for Monuments and Sites (or the World Heritage Day) 2022 and the theme ‘Heritage and Climate’.

The event was titled ‘Rediscovering Modern Heritage through Climate Resilience and Sustainability: Case of Chandigarh and Ahmedabad’ and was held on 18th and 19th April 2022. Ms. Kanika Bansal and Dr. Harveen Bhandari from Chitkara University, and Dr. Jigna Desai and Ms. Jayashree Bardhan from CEPT University coordinated the event. It was supported by ICOMOS India National Scientific Committee on Twentieth Century Heritage (NSC-20C) and Climate Change and Heritage Working Group (CCH-WG).

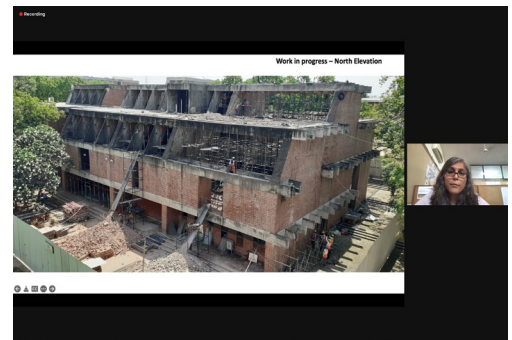


Image Credit: Jayashree Bardhan

The event hosted by CSPA and CEPT was an opportunity to discuss the theme of modern heritage in Chandigarh and Ahmedabad, two cities in India with exemplary twentieth century heritage, where both the universities are located, through the lens of climate resilience and sustainability. The lectures, discussions and activities of the two days, focused on generating a meaningful discourse on appreciating the role of cultural heritage conservation as a necessary tool for climate adaptation and sustainable development. The presentations led to discussions on climate related issues of modern heritage, questions

of long-term sustainability and the necessary responses of conservation management frameworks. The outcome of the event was aligned with SDG 11.4 (strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage) and SDG 13.3 (improve education, awareness raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning).

On 18th April, case presentations of modern heritage from Chandigarh and Ahmedabad were made. Presenters and discussants included Mr. C B Ojha, (Chief Engineer, Chandigarh Administration), Dr. Armaan Singh, (Sub Divisional Engineer, Chandigarh Administration), Dr. Jigna Desai (CEPT University), Ms. Annabel Lopez (NSC-20C), Ms. Nityaa Lakshmi Iyer (NSC-20C), and Mr. Riyaz Tayyibji (Founder and Principal Architect, Anthill Design). The recording of the event on 18th April can be found [here](#).

Special guided tours were also arranged on 18th April, between 2:30 to 5:30 pm, simultaneously at the Capitol Complex in Chandigarh and the Faculty of Architecture (FA) Building and the Millowner's Building (ATMA) in Ahmedabad. The tours offered participants to observe and discuss technical processes of repairs, specific challenges, design approaches, and climatic considerations for conservation and long-term sustainability of the buildings. The tours and discussions were coordinated by Dr. Armaan Singh and Mr. Lohit Jain for Chandigarh, and Ms. Nigar Shaikh and Ms. Jayashree Bardhan for Ahmedabad.

On 19th April, global perspectives, research possibilities and directions for the way forward were presented. Presenters and discussants included Dr. Amit Mittal, (Dean-Doctoral Research Center, Chitkara University), Mr. Chandler McCoy, (Getty Conservation Institute), Dr. Rohit Jigyasu (Project Manager, Urban Heritage, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management Programme Unit, ICCROM) and members of Climate Change and Heritage Working Group (CCH-WG), Ms. Priyanka Panjwani, Ms. Saranya Dharshini and Ms. Nityaa Lakshmi Iyer. The recording of the event on 19th April can be found [here](#).



Image Credit: Kanika Bansal

NSC - ICH AND NSC - CL

Distinguished Lecture Program for Graduate Students on 'Sharing Perspectives for Climate Risk Preparedness using Intangible Cultural Heritage as a Knowledge Resource'

24 April 2022

The Department of Architecture, Planning, and Design at IIT (BHU) Varanasi, in collaboration with knowledge partners NSC ICH and NSC Cultural Landscape ICOMOS India as, hosted a distinguished lecture program for graduate students to commemorate the International Day for Monuments and Site which is scheduled for April 24th 2022 (Sunday). The program is called 'Distinguished Lecture Program for Graduate Students on Sharing Perspectives for Climate Risk Preparedness using Intangible Cultural Heritage as a Knowledge Resource'.

Distinguished Speakers:

Keynote Address by Prof. Olimpio Niglio (Director of International Research Center EdA, President of International Center for Research and Cultural Heritage Italy)

1. Prof. Rana P.B. Singh (Cultural Landscape Geographer, Former Professor and Head of the Department of Geography, Institute of Science, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi)
2. Prof. GSV Suryanarayana Murthy (Conservation Architect and Professor, JBR College of Architecture, Hyderabad)
3. Ar. Poonam Verma Mascarenhas (Architect, Building Conservationist, Director Archinova Environs. Goa)
4. Dr. B. Venugopal (Former Director of National Museum of Natural History, New Delhi and Indian Museum, Kolkata)

The session was opened up to the audience to ask questions, resulting in a highly interactive session with the speakers. With their diverse experience, all of the speakers patiently answered audience members' questions and opinions. There was general agreement on the critical role that communities play in sustaining and protecting heritage. Dr. Harsimran Kaur, coordinator was invited to conclude the session and provide a vote of thanks.

WEST ZONE AND NSC - HTV

Post-activity Review: 'Comprehensive Study of Heritage Settlements in the Western Ghats'

The activity was proposed by Ar. Poonam Trambadia, West Zone representative, Ar. Niyati Jigyasu, NSC HCTV coordinator and supported by NSC CL, NSC Education and Training, and EPWG in collaboration with the BRICK College of

Architecture, Pune. This activity was aimed to explore the Nature culture relationship through the study of vernacular architecture and settlements in relation to ecological and historic contexts. The activity was planned in 3 stages that included pre-activity webinars followed by an on-site study, a review session concluding with a post-event session, and output in the form of publication. The area of study is situated in the Tillari region in the Western Ghats, one of the eight biodiversity hotspots in the world. The workshop (ICOMOS India Training and Capacity Building program in collaboration with SMEF'S BRICK School of Architecture) was aimed at enhancing students' knowledge of settlements which are rich in living and cultural heritage.

Three experts reviewed students' work on 5th April 2022. Three experts from the field of cultural landscape Ar. Nupur Prothi Khanna (Board Member ICOMOS International & Member IUCN), Ar. Neel Kamal Chapagain (Director of Center for Heritage Management at Ahmedabad University) and Ar. Suryanarayana Murthy (Coordinator ICOMOS India South Zone & Co-coordinator NSC CL) graced the discussion as an expert and encouraged students to fine-tune their work. All the reviewers appreciated the documentation presented by the students and gave valuable feedback for enhancing the work. They also commended the efforts and the methodology of the documentation study. The next and final stage includes the revision of the documentation study as per the feedback of the jury and the publication – a collaboration between ICOMOS India and SMEF'S BRICK School of Architecture. This publication-a guidance document titled "Handbook: Exploring Nature, Culture and settlements" will comprise contributions from the experts as well as members of the coordinating team.

W-Z & NSC - HTV



Image Credit: Kanika Bansal

CCH-WG AND NSC RP

Panel Discussion on 'Discourse towards Climate Change, Corals and Coastal Heritage'

17 April 2022

Coral reefs are fascinating marine biodiversity hotspots. Within and around coral reefs, an interconnected ecosystem of marine vegetation such as seagrass meadows and mangroves thrives. The survival of coral reefs indicates a healthy marine ecosystem, which promotes vibrant marine diversity. The Gulf of Mannar has a high level of coral diversity, making it one India's most unique coral areas.

Coral Woman is an uplifting, timely story about Uma Mani, a homemaker from Tamil Nadu who has used her paintings to raise awareness of the disastrous effects of climate change. This film follows Uma, a certified scuba diver, as she investigates the underwater world and the threat to coral reefs in India's Gulf of Mannar. Uma was inspired by the corals to learn to swim, dive, and paint in her fifties.

The web-based panel discussion, a collaborative event of the CCH Working Group and NSC Risk Preparedness, was organized to raise awareness in heritage fields and direct people's attention to marine-based natural heritage.

The panel-based discussion raised concerns about interconnectedness of climate change and coral degradation, and it was hoped that partnerships to protect corals would be formed in order to preserve marine ecology.

The film can be found [here](#) on YouTube, free to view. Recording of the event is available on ICOMOS India YouTube channel [here](#).

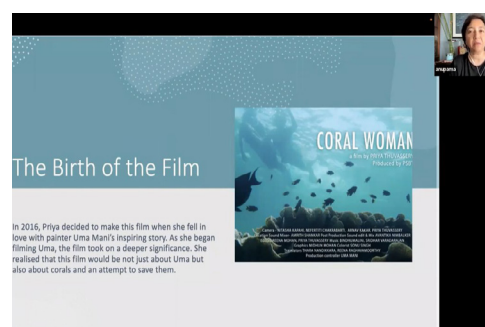


Image Credit: ICOMOS India YouTube Channel

Members' Corner

GENERAL MEMBERS

DR. JIGNA DESAI AND AR. NIYATI JIGYASU

YASH GUPTA

CIVVIH Annual Meeting and Scientific Member Submission by Yash Gupta, North Zone Member

15-16 June 2022

Dr. Jigna Desai and Ar. Niyati Jigyasu attended and presented papers at the “ELEVEN YEARS OF VALLETTA PRINCIPLES: EVOLUTION AND PRACTICE OF URBAN HERITAGE GOVERNANCE” Scientific Symposium in Brussels, Belgium.

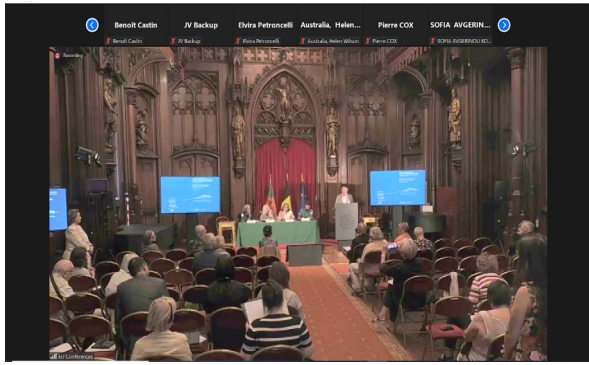
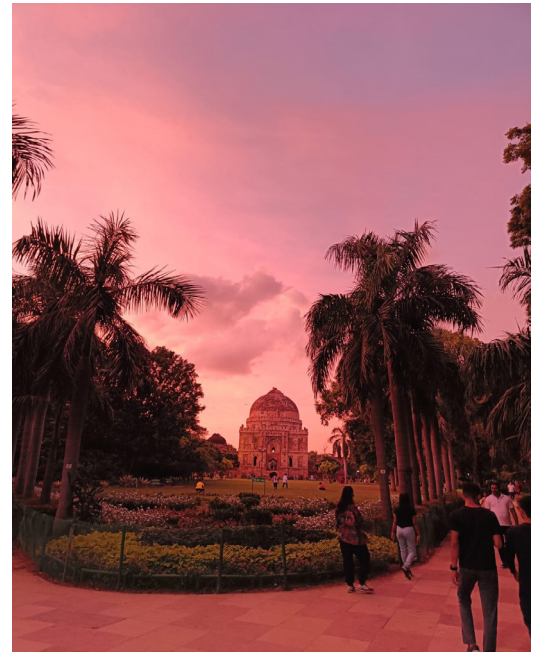


Image Credit: Jigna Desai

The Valletta Principles were adopted at the 17th ICOMOS General Assembly. During the CIVVIH annual meeting in Tunisia in November 2019, it was decided that this document should be revised to take into account the new parameters affecting urban planning, particularly the conservation and management of urban historic landscapes.

CIVVIH organized the symposium for members to submit their proposals for communications based on their reflections, experiences, and knowledge of successful outcomes in cities and historic urban areas in order to better understand current practices and general risks to urban heritage. While Dr Jigna Desai presented on, “Participatory Approach and Digital Documentation, can the two meet? Ar. Niyati Jigyasu presented, “Intangible Heritage as a driver of transformations in historic cities: Case of traditional craft practice in Jaipur, India”. Jigna Desai also attended the CIVVIH meeting on June 17th.



The mesmerizing evenings in the Lodhi gardens tell a story of a tribe that was lost to make way for the opulent gardens.

These gardens amidst the 15th century Lodhi tombs stand as a testimony of what was a small hamlet of "khairpur". The settlement was relocated by the Delhi town planning committee as it stood in the way of the new capital of British Raj.

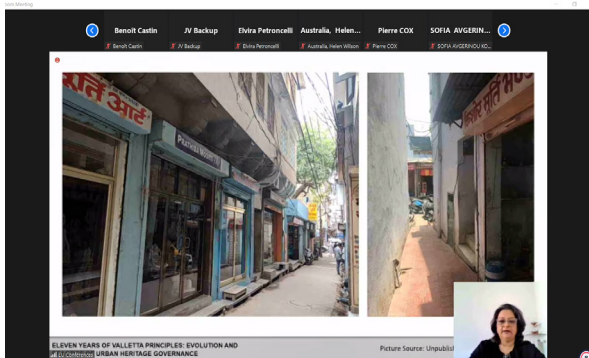


Image Credit: Jigna Desai



We look forward to your valued and continued support.

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

HAPPY READING 😊



EDITORIAL TEAM

Shalini Dasgupta, Secretary
Jigna Desai, Institutional Representative
Simran Deshpande, Research Assistant
Nupur Bhatnagar, EPWG
Purvasha Saxena, EPWG
Shriya Rajwade, EPWG



COPYRIGHT

COMOS (ICOMOS India) June 2022
THIS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED BY
Council on Monuments and Sites (COMOS)



ADDRESS

623A, Somdutt Chamber II,
Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi 110066
Email: info@icomosindia.com
Tele: 011-4004 7876



www.icomosindia.com

*For any queries please write to info@icomosindia.com. We look forward to the support of all the members.
Mailing address: 623 A, Somdatt Chambers 2, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi - 110066, Phone: 91-11-4004 876*