

ICOMOS INDIA

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2023

COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS & SITES



Ganesha Ratha, Mahabalipuram; Picture Credit: Akanksha Malik Parashar

CONTENTS

SL. NO.	TOPIC	PAGE NO.
1	Events Calendar	3
2	From the Secretariat: Announcements, Events, Financial Reporting	4-5
3	Collaborative Activities	6
4	Institutional Corner	7
5	Members' Corner	8-10

EVENTS CALENDAR

July to September 2023

SL. NO.	DATE	NSC/ZONE/ INSTITUTE	POINT OF CONTACT	NAME OF THE EVENT
1	19 July	Central Zone & WforW foundation	Nishant Upadhyay, Central Zone Rep.	Riverscape Series - V: Rivers Uninterrupted: The Many Lives
2	29 July, & 12 August	North Zone, Risk Preparedness NSC and Water Heritage WG	Smita Datta Makhija, North Zone Rep.	Hydrology and Heritage: Himalayan River Ecology: Sustenance and Responsible Intervention
3	August - December	RVCA	Bikramjit Chakraborty, East Zone Rep.	Design Studio
4	30 August	Central Zone & WforW foundation	Nishant Upadhyay, Central Zone Rep.	Riverscape Series - VI: Our River Our Life

From the Secretariat

The July to September quarter saw one meeting taking place, which was the first meeting of the newly formed Executive Committee. ExCom 1 was held on 11th July 2023 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm through online mode on the Zoom platform, with the ExCom members and secretariat staff in attendance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Announcement of New Membership & Renewals

ICOMOS India opened the 1st cycle of Membership for the year 2024 from 15th September 2023. The deadline for new registrations and renewals for the 1st cycle was set up till 15th October 2023.

2. ICOMOS GA2023

The 21st Triennial General Assembly of ICOMOS took place from 31st August - 9th September 2023 at Sydney, Australia. To read more about GA2023 kindly visit:-

- <https://icomosga2023.org/>
- <https://www.icomos.org/en/pub/657-english-categories/about-icomos/governance/general-assembly/ga-2023>

3. End of tenure of NSC Counselor

The term of the NSC Counselor, Dr. Arun Menon, who took office on 1st September 2020, concluded in August 2023. We take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to Dr. Menon for his invaluable support and dedication to ICOMOS India during his tenure.

4. Call for applicants for the post of NSC Counselor

A call for applications for the post of NSC Counsellor was sent out on 22nd September 2023. The applications were invited till 30th September 2023.

5. Nomination of Institutional Member as Ex-Com Member

During the ExCom1 meeting, for the nomination of the Institutional Member, within the ExCom a draw of lots was conducted from among the voting institutional members namely, R. V. College of Architecture and FoAP AKTU - Faculty of Architecture and Planning Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University. CEPT being the third voting member and ExCom member for the last term (2020-2023) was not included within this draw. FoAP AKTU won the draw. Dr. Vandana Sehgal was nominated as the FoAP AKTU (Institutional Member) representative on the Executive Committee.

EVENT NEWS

1. Webinar on Riverscape Series - V: Rivers Uninterrupted: The Many Lives

Central Zone in collaboration with Wednesdays For Water Foundation organized the fifth talk in the Riverscape Series on 19th July in online mode. The panel consisted of Nupur Choudhary and Venkatesh Dutta facilitated by Nishant Upadhyay. For more information on the event, contact the Central Zone representative.

2. Hydrology and Heritage: Himalayan River Ecology: Sustenance and Responsible Intervention

North Zone in collaboration with NSC Risk Preparedness and Water Heritage Working Group organized a webinar series spread across two days on 29th July and 12th August on the topic “Hydrology and Heritage: Himalayan River Ecology: Sustenance and Responsible Intervention. For more information on the event, click [here](#).

3. RVCA - Institutional Member Annual Activity

One of ICOMOS India’s institutional members, R.V. College of Architecture conducted a design studio spread across 4 months from August to December 2023. For more information on the event, click [here](#).

4. Webinar on Riverscape Series - VI: Our River, Our Life

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

FINANCIAL REPORTING

With the elections held in the previous quarter, the July - September 2023 quarter began with all financial and legal changes in signatories on statutory documents with the Registrar of Society and the Bank being done, to reflect the newly elected Executive Committee.

Collaborative Activities

NORTH ZONE & NSC RP & WH WG

Hydrology and Heritage: Himalayan River Ecology: Sustenance and Responsible Intervention

29 July and 12 August 2023

In view of the flooding of heritage areas in the river Yamuna basin a dialogue on the Himalayan river ecology's relationship with the historic settlements and the current reasons for the devastating flooding in the North India was conducted on two days, 29th July 2023 and 12th August 2023. The panellists acknowledged the need to understand the hydrological heritage resources from the past and their relevance in the ecocentric planning of historic cities today. Experts Suruchi Shah, Vikram Soni, Prof Meenakshi Dhote voiced concern about the incompatible interventions with respect to the river's inherent nature and the aspects that need to be integrated in the planning process, stressing on maintaining the health of flood plains to prevent contamination. Jagan Shah and Madhav Raman spoke about the Yamuna flood plain and the measures already tabled in the past which have not been implemented. In this session the Himalayan ecology parameters were examined in a scientific manner through the historic and present times perspective to prevent disasters due to flash flooding, the private and government initiatives were examined to list out parameters for further work on the topic.

HYDROLOGY AND HERITAGE
HIMALAYAN RIVER ECOLOGY: SUSTENANCE AND RESPONSIBLE INTERVENTION



North Zone ICOMOS INDIA
In collaboration with Risk Preparedness NSC and Water Heritage WG

SPEAKERS



SURUCHI SHAH
Conservation Architect and Co-Founder at Archorate Design Studio, Research Scholar



VIKRAM SONI
UGC Professor of Physics at the National Physical Laboratory and at the Centre for Theoretical Physics at Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. Eminent Professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.



PROF. MEENAKSHI DHOTE
Professor and Head, Department of Environmental Planning at the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi. Coordinator of Environmental Information Center on Human Settlements EIACP.



29TH JULY
Saturday


11:00 AM - 01:00 PM

[CLICK HERE](#)
You will receive confirmation via email.

CONTACT US
Smita Datta Makhija
+91 9868100960
Arushi Bisaria
+91 8586092590


Poster of the event

HYDROLOGY AND HERITAGE
HIMALAYAN RIVER ECOLOGY: SUSTENANCE AND RESPONSIBLE INTERVENTION




North Zone ICOMOS INDIA
In collaboration with Risk Preparedness NSC and Water Heritage WG


SPEAKERS



JAGAN SHAH
Director of the Artha Centre for Emerging Cities, Trustee of Clean Air Asia. A Distinguished Fellow at the InfraVision Foundation and is an Advisor to My Liveable City. His work on urban innovation includes the design and implementation of India's Smart Cities Mission, the design of the Infrastructure for Resilient Island States facility established by the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, and the land pooling and transit-oriented development policies for the Delhi Master Plan 2041.



MADHAV RAMAN
An architect and urbanist co founded Anagram Architects in partnership with Vaibhav Dimri. Its work has been premiated at the Architectural Review's World Emerging Architecture Awards 2007, United Kingdom, the Cityscape Architectural Awards 2008, 2010 & 2016, United Arab Emirates, the Wienerberger Brick Awards 2010, Austria, the Holcim Award for Sustainable Construction 2011, Switzerland, the Asia Pacific Design Awards 2012, United Kingdom, the Dedalo Minosso International Awards 2017, 2019 and 2022, Italy.



12TH AUGUST
Saturday

11:00 AM - 01:00 PM

[CLICK HERE](#)
You will receive confirmation via email.

CONTACT US
Smita Datta Makhija
+91 9868100960
Arushi Bisaria
+91 8586092590

Poster of the event

Institutional Corner

RVCA, BANGALORE'S ACTIVITY (INTERNAL)

RVCA Institutional Member's Annual Activity: RVCA as an Institutional member has conducted a Design Studio

August to December 2023

The significance of Historic buildings and their spatial propositions are constantly under a critical lens due to the change in the pattern of everyday life systems. Thus, such spatial expressions are preserved under extremely controlled regimes or facing major transformation, primarily the economy-driven logic. The values and meaning embedded within the built expressions must be recognised and understood before proposing changes to fulfill contemporary needs. Architectural responses to contemporary needs will create new meanings for the existing spaces. But changing the value and significance also demands a sense of responsibility and caring intervention after acknowledging the existing meanings embedded in the historically built fabric. Spatial needs in contemporary times are different, as gadgets, equipment, furniture, vehicles and physical infrastructure largely drive them. Changes in everyday life patterns determine the transformations that must be understood before proposing a new need-based spatial appropriation.

As an institutional member of ICOMOS, R V College of Architecture has undertaken periodic academic exploration to understand a historical layer and develop an architectural design language based on that. A design studio at seventh semester level (RVCA VII Sem Section B) was conducted at KILIMANOOR Palace, Trivandrum, Kerala, the ancestral property of Raja Ravi Varma- the great painter. The studio focused very objectively on finding the 'Meta' elements through the lens of Vernacularism and then underlying those understandings in Architectural Design. A team of experts such as Mr. Bikramjit Chakraborty, Mr. Dinesh Rao, Ms. Megala G and Ms. Suman Paul mentored the Design Studio regularly. Raja Rama Varma ji, the present representative of the family, supported the entire exploration. During the studio journey, the work was reviewed by eminent experts like Prof. Sarad Sundar, Dr. Benny Kuriakose, Prof. Anne Feestra and Ar. Meeta Jain. Advanced documentation techniques like LiDAR and Drones have been used to capture the authentic data set utilized during the design decision-making process. These are the students whose work is recommended for future reference. Such as, Mr. Jennis John Varghese, Ms. Kashish Lalwani, Mr. Likhith R, Ms. Manasa Rao, Ms. Nandini K N, Ms. Navya Uday Balgar, Ms. Neha Ajit, Ms. Neha Rao J, Mr. Pavan T. And Mr. Pratham Kumar Rathi.



Image Credits: Bikramjit Chakraborty



Image Credits: Bikramjit Chakraborty

Members' Corner

XAVIER BENEDICT

Trace Origin Of Madras @ Pulicat

26 August 2023



Image Credit: Xavier Benedict

Every year, Chennai celebrates its past glory to boost its cultural heritage image during the month of August at various places in the city. Our heritage celebrations provide an opportunity for the city dwellers to trace the story of its origin at Pulicat. AARDE Foundation, a not-for-profit Trust, organized a full-day heritage trip on August 26th 2023 to Pazhaverkadu for heritage lovers to trace Chennai city's origin.



Image Credit: Xavier Benedict

Pazhaverkadu, famously known as Pulicat, is located to the north of Chennai at 55 km on the Coromandel Coast. This coastal village is famous for its second-largest brackish water lagoon in South Asia, measuring 759 sq. km, and for its two-thousand-year's old maritime history. More than seventy thousand migratory birds visit Pulicat Lagoon every winter, and its built heritage reflects the history of the first European administration in South India.



Image Credit: Xavier Benedict

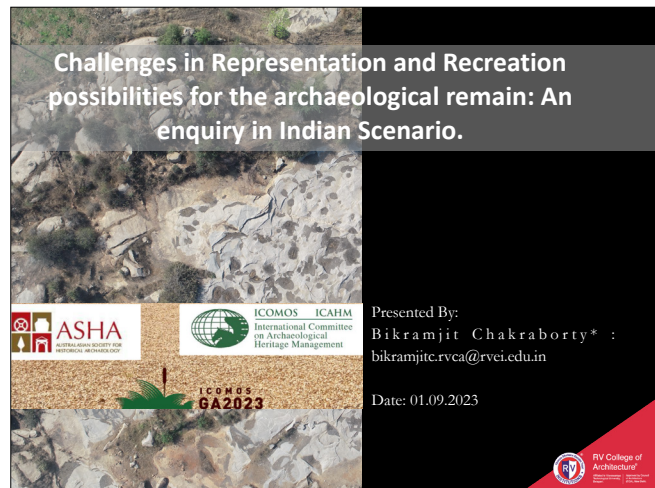
Xavier Benedict, ICOMOS India member, the founder of AARDE, explained and guided the walk based on his two decades long research based on the nature-culture linkages of the Coromandel Coast. His talk traced the reasons for Europe's decision to establish its COTTON ROUTE and its administration in India. Madras Heritage Day celebration at Pulicat had a visit to the Pulicat Interpretation Center, Dutch and Portuguese Cemeteries, Adi Narayana Perumal Temple, Tamil Mosques, Portuguese Church, and the Lagoon. The day trip from Chennai started with 31 participants at 7:00 a.m. on August 26th and returned to the city by 6.00 p.m.

BIKRAMJIT CHAKRABORTY

Presentation at workshop as part of ICOMOS General Assembly 2023

01 September 2023

East Zone Representative and NSC Heritage Documentation Coordinator, Mr. Bikramjit Chakraborty's presentation 'Challenges in Representation and Recreation Possibilities for the Archaeological Remains: An enquiry in Indian Scenario.' and the photographs clicked by him were presented at Session 3 (ASHA): Archaeology Futures in the Pacific of the ASHA/ICAHM Workshop as a part of ICOMOS General Assembly 2023, taking place at the Big Dig Archaeological Resource Centre, The Rocks, Sydney, Australia on 1 September 2023. A recorded presentation was played at the forum as Mr. Chakraborty could not travel to Australia at that time.



Photograph has captured and shared by Ar. Maniyarasan R. At the forum in Sydney, Australia on 1st September 2023

Photograph has captured and shared by Ar. Maniyarasan R. At the forum in Sydney, Australia on 1st September 2023

Bikramjit Chakraborty Presentation at G.A2023

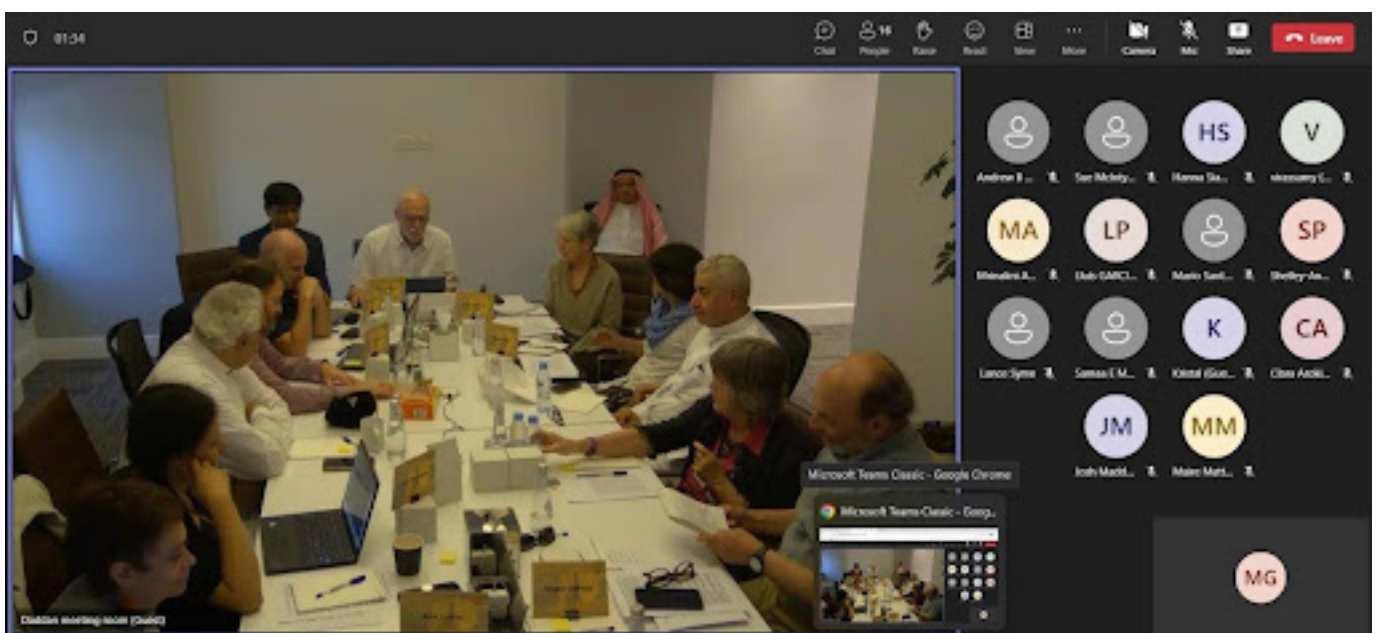
SANJIB KUMAR BORKAKOTI

Preparation Of Charter On Intangible Cultural Heritage **29 September 2023**

ICOMOS International Committee on Intangible Cultural Heritage is preparing a new tourism charter about all aspects of heritage across the world.

Intangible cultural heritage (ICH) is an important aspect of cultural heritage in all societies around the world. ICOMOS members feel duty bound to protect their heritage in the face of increasing pressure of tourism. That is why a charter is being drafted.

ICOMOS India member Mr. Sanjib participated in the working group meeting held in Saudi Arabia through online mode (There were a total of 20 participants, 16 online and 14 offline) and contributed a few ideas, one such being that he highlighted the role of the communities who preserve heritage. He is further grateful and happy about being a part of this process of the drafting of the charter.



Screenshop of the Zoom Meeting; Image Credit: Sanjib Borkakoti

We look forward to your valued and continued support this year!

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



EDITORIAL TEAM

Rima Hooja, President
Nitin Sinha, Secretary
Akanksha Malik Parashar, Research Intern
Shriya Rajwade, EPWG



COPYRIGHT

COMOS (ICOMOS India) September 2023
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*