Issue no. CMS/11/2023



JANUARY-MARCH 2023

COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS & SITES





From the Secretariat

The January to March quarter saw two Executive Committee Meetings being held, ExCom 15 and ExCom 16, on 4 February and 25 February 2023 respectively. ExCom 15 was held in online mode on the Zoom platform in presence of ExCom members and Secretariat staff for the purpose of planning for Scientific Symposium 2023. ExCom 16 was held in hybrid mode at RVCA Campus, Bangalore. The meeting saw the presence of ExCom members in person and online, along with the presence of Secretariat staff at RVCA Campus.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Closure of Membership Cycles for the year 2023

The Third cycle of Membership for 2023 ended on 23 January, after an extension of the last date. This marked the closure of all membership cycles for 2023.

Stepping Down of NSC RP Coordinator

Mr. Amit Tandon stepped down from the position of NSC Risk Preparedness Coordinator.

Circulation of Google Form For Future of Unlisted Heritage in India

Future of Unlisted Heritage in India is an initiative under the ICOMOS India Masterplan 2022-23 which aims to explore and acknowledge the unsung heroes of that period as well as conserve their memory by spreading awareness and will help in bringing alive the stories of freedom fighters, writers, poets etc. by mapping the undocumented/unlisted tangible and intangible heritage associated with them. In this regard, a google form was circulated urging members to share any unlisted structure for identification. The form can be found here.

EVENT NEWS

Webinar on Riverscape Series-I: Mythology, Iconography, Folklore and Origins

Central Zone in collaboration with WednesdaysForWater Foundation organized the first talk in the Riverscape Series on 15 February on Zoom platform, with Ar. Sushant Bharti as the speaker. For more information on the event, contact the Central Zone representative.

10 Years of COMOS Celebratory Talks

To commemorate 10 years of ICOMOS India, an event was held in collaboration with R.V. College of Architecture, Bangalore on 24 February titled 'Celebratory Talks' at RVCA Campus. The celebratory talks event saw attendance of several esteemed speakers and ICOMOS India members, online and offline. Read more about the event here.



NSC Conclave 2023

NSC Conclave 2023 was held on 24 February in hybrid mode at RVCA Campus, Bangalore and on Zoom, with the NSC Counselor along with the NSC coordinators present in Bangalore and others present online. Find more about the conclave here.

ICOMOS India Annual Scientific Symposium 2023

The Annual Scientific Symposium 2023 was held in collaboration with R.V. College of Architecture at RVCA Campus, Bangalore, on 25 & 26 February in hybrid mode. The theme of this year's symposium was 75 years of Heritage Conservation in India, along with an exhibition curated by RVCA at their campus. Read more about it here.

Event on Red Fort Heritage & Conservation Dialogue

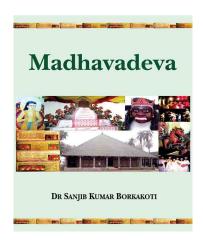
North Zone in collaboration with Global Shapers Gurugram Hub organized a heritage dialogue and walk which focused on the conservation efforts carried out by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) over the past few decades in Red Fort on 4 March. Read more about it here.

Webinar on Riverscape Series-II: Socio-Cultural Placemaking & Intangible Heritage

Central Zone in collaboration with WednesdaysForWater Foundation organized the second talk in the Riverscape series on 15 March in hybrid mode. The event was co-hosted by our Institutional Member, FoAP, AKTU in the AKTU Campus in Lucknow along with Dr. Deepak Acharya and Dr. Mansee Bal Bhargav as speakers. For more information on the event, contact the Central Zone representative

Guwahati Heritage Walk

North-East Zone in collaboration with Rotary Club of Guwahati organized a heritage walk on 26 March in Guwahati, Assam which covered a distance of 1.5 kms and eight pivotal points of cultural importance. Read more about the walk here.



Featured Photo of the Quarter

ICOMOS India member, Dr. Sanjib Kumar Borkakoti, launched his new book titled 'Madhavadeva'. It is an English biography of Madhavadeva, the great ideogogue of Eka Sarana Nama Dharma and successor of Srimanta Sankaradeva, who created many songs, dances and plays in the medieval era. The book has been published by the internationally renowned publisher Motilal Banarasidass Publishing House, New Delhi under the imprint New Age Publishing. It is available both in hard cover and paperback. The book can be found here.

-Photo & Text by Dr. Sanjib Kumar Borkakoti



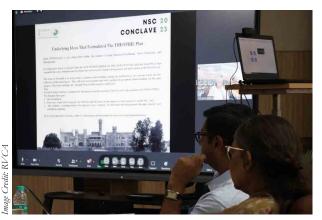
NSC Conclave 2023

R.V. COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE & ZOOM 24 FEBRUARY

SC Conclave 2023 was conducted at R.V. College of Architecture, Bengaluru, in hybrid mode on 24 February. This year's conclave saw confluence of NSC coordinators and WG Focal points both online and in-person, with the NSC Counselor Dr. Arun Menon attending from the RVCA campus. NSC Conclave 2023 commenced with welcoming the coordinators and focal points in attendance by Dr. Arun Menon, followed by a brief overview of the ongoing NSC Research Projects. The coordinators and focal points present at the conclave elaborated on the ongoing and past activities in their respective NSCs and WGs. Dr. Sanghamitra Basu, a Steering Committee member graced the NSC Conclave with her presence in person and summed up the course of scientific activities at ICOMOS India. The conclave concluded with a discussion on directions for the scientific activities to be undertaken in the future course.















Events Calendar

January to March 2023

DATE	NSC / ZONE / INSTITUTE	NAME OF THE EVENT
15 Feb	Central Zone & WednesdaysForWater Foundation	Riverscape Series-I: Mythology, Iconography, Folklore and Origins
24 Feb	ICOMOS India & RV College of Architecture	10 Years of COMOS Celebratory Talks
24 Feb	NSC Counselor	ICOMOS India NSC Conclave 2023
25-26 Feb	ICOMOS India & RV College of Architecture	ICOMOS India Annual Scientific Symposium 2023
4 Mar	North Zone & Global Shapers Gurugram Hub	Red Fort Heritage & Conservation Dialogue
15 Mar	North-East Zone, NSC ICH, NSC Theophilos, NSC CL & EPWG	Riverscape Series-II: Socio-Cultural Placemaking & Intangible Heritage
26 Mar	North-East Zone & Rotary Club of Guwahati	Guwahati Heritage Walk













10 Years of COMOS Celebratory Talks

R.V. COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE BENGALURU

24 February 2023

COMOS India in collaboration with R.V. College of Architecture organised 75 Years of India's Independence & 10 Years of ICOMOS India Celebratory Talks on 24 February at RVCA Campus, Bengaluru in hybrid mode. The event aimed to encapsulate the collective spirit of celebration for ICOMOS India's decade-long journey, the milestones achieved and the contribution made to the field of heritage conservation through these years.

With a gathering that collectively saw attendance of ICOMOS India members, RVCA students and other participants, the celebratory talks brought together people from various fields under one roof to celebrate COMOS' journey. The event commenced with the Welcome Address by Mr. O.P. Bawane, Principal of RVCA Bengaluru followed by the Inaugural Speech presented by Mr. GSV Suryanarayana Murthy, South Zone Representative of ICOMOS India. It is imperative to cast a glimpse at the past to understand the efforts taken throughout a journey, which was done by Dr. Rohit Jigyasu, the Founding President of ICOMOS India, who spoke about 'COMOS in Retrospect' and brought forth to the audience his experiences with the early establishment years of COMOS and the organisational changes it went through.

Moving forward, ICOMOS India member and Board member of ICOMOS International, Ms. Nupur Prothi Khanna shed light on the work done by ICOMOS in projects like Nature-Culture initiatives, ISC Water and Heritage, etc. and her gradual involvement with ICOMOS India. Ms. Khanna also spoke about COMOS' presence in the international scenario and the feat achieved by ICOMOS India by organising the 19th General Assembly in 2017, which was a great success. At this decennial celebration, Ms. Shalini Dasgupta, Secretary, ICOMOS India presented the milestones achieved throughout the 10 years of operations, which included various collaborations with government organisations, universities and institutions, Scientific Symposiums, and several other successful collaborative events. Ms. Dasgupta also presented the membership statistics over the years in the six zones along with some notable events like Scientific Symposiums, Annual General Meetings and the 19th GA in 2017, which marked a major milestone in COMOS' history. She also touched upon various other aspects of COMOS' workings, like the Scientific Committees and subcommittees, COMOS publications like the Quarterly Newsletters, the ever-growing Digital Platforms of COMOS and many more. The address concluded with the way forward, and what future might hold for ICOMOS India.

This was followed by a 10 Year-Recap of Zonal Activities by Zonal Representatives of ICOMOS India, with North Zone Rep. Ms. Smita Makhija, South Zone Rep. Mr. GSV Suryanarayana Murthy, North-East Zone Rep. Mr. Dilip Changakoty and West Zone Rep. Ms. Poonam Trambadia addressing the audience from RVCA campus about the activities undertaken in their respective zones over the years. With India completing 75 years of Independence, the Emerging Professionals Working Group (EPWG) prepared a Masterplan to develop a range of activities within the narrative of Heritage in India@75 years, for the 2022-23 period. A general overview of the Masterplan and the active and ongoing projects under it was presented by Aditi Rai, EPWG National Representative & Saranya Dharshini, Ex-EPWG National Representative. The program progressed with felicitation of Prof. Nalini Thakur, a long-time ICOMOS India member and a pioneer in the field of conservation followed by felicitation of Mr. Bipin Chandra, ASI Bengaluru Circle, for ASI's efforts in conservation of heritage in India.

With the words ``We are the heritage', Ar. Krishnarao Jaisim, Founder, Jaisim-Fountainhead commenced his keynote speech. Ar. Jaisim's engaging speech as the keynote speaker covered various aspects of heritage in India, heritage across the world, state of architecture and the meaning behind conserving heritage, among other enlightening topics. The Celebratory Talks event came to a conclusion with concluding remarks being given by Dr. Rima Hooja, Vice-President, ICOMOS India which included the vote of thanks and Dr. Hooja's insights into COMOS as an entity, its past and the future it holds. This was followed by the formal announcement of the release of ICOMOS India's East Zone publication titled 'Resilient and Sustainable Development of Historic Precincts and Areas: Focus West Bengal' based on a series of webinars. The program came to a successful conclusion with all attendees being invited for inauguration of the exhibition at the RVCA Campus, curated collectively by the RVCA team headed by Mr. Bikramjit Chakraborty, RVCA Institutional Rep., ICOMOS India.

The video for the Celebratory Talks event can be found on our YouTube channel here.



Glimpses from the Event



















Annual Scientific Symposium 2023

R.V. COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE **BENGALURU**

25 & 26 February 2023

COMOS India in collaboration with our institutional partner from South Zone, R. V. College of Architecture organised and hosted the Annual Scientific Symposium 2023 in the RVCA Campus, Bengaluru on 25 & 26 February 2023 in hybrid mode. The theme of this year's symposium was 'Journey of 75 years: Understanding Spatial Transformation through the Lens of Built Heritage Conservation', to celebrate and cast a glance at the journey of heritage conservation in India since 75 years of Independence. The symposium saw a gathering of esteemed experts as chairs and co-chairs along with several ICOMOS India members and students from RVCA as well. Spread across a two-day event, the Scientific Symposium had paper presentations from various participants, present both online and offline, on a set of sub-themes around the topic of built heritage conservation. Collated jointly by Mr. Bikramjit Chakraborty, ICOMOS India Institutional Representative for RVCA and ICOMOS India, the event proposal with information on the theme and sub-themes can be accessed here.

The paper presentations were spread across five sessions in the two-day event, with day 1 having 4 sessions and day 2 having the 5th session. All sessions were chaired and co-chaired by experts in the field followed by a panel discussion. The sessions were based on the five sub-themes of the symposium, namely Conservation: Past and Present: Epistemology and Discourse, Evolution of Conservation as a Discipline and its Pedagogy, Funding, Politics and Negotiation on Conservation Process, Heritage and Conservation: Policies and Practiceand Future of Conservation: Material and Technological Aspects.

Day 1 of the SS23 started with a welcome note by Dr. Navin Piplani, President, ICOMOS India, where Dr. Piplani announced the commencement of the Scientific Symposium for the year 2023 and welcomed the audience and participants to the program. This was followed by the announcement and sharing of objectives of SS23 by RVCA Rep. Prof. Bikramjit Chakraborty. Video for Day 1 of SS23 can be found on our YouTube channel here. Session 1 commenced with introduction of the Chair for the session, Prof. Nalini Thakur & Co-Chairs Mr. Vedakumar and Dr. Navin Piplani. This was followed by paper presentations of the participants of Session 1 with the sub-theme 'Conservation: Past and Present: Epistemology and Discourse'. Following the end of the presentations, concluding remarks were given by the session Chair and Co-chairs. Session 2 commenced with introduction of the Chair for the session, Dr. Vishakha Kawathekar & Co-Chairs Dr. Arun Menon and Mr. GSV Suryanarayana Murthy. This was followed by paper presentations of the participants of Session 2 with the sub-theme 'Evolution of Conservation as a Discipline and its Pedagogy'. Following the end of the presentations, a panel discussion was held by the session Chair and Co-chairs for comments on the presentations. Session 3 commenced with the introduction of the Chair for the session, Mr. Vijay Narnapatti & Co-Chair Mr. Xavier Benedict. This was followed by paper presentations of the participants of Session 3 with the sub-theme 'Funding, Politics and Negotiation on Conservation Process'. Following the end of the presentations, a panel discussion was held by the session Chair and Co-chair followed by concluding remarks. The first half of Session 4 commenced with the introduction of the Chair for the session, Dr. Sangamitra Basu & Co-Chairs Ms. Brinda Sastry & Ms. Smita Makhija. This was followed by paper presentations of the participants of Session 4 with the sub-theme 'Heritage and Conservation: Policies and Practices'. Following the end of the presentations for the first half, a panel discussion was held by the session Chair and Co-chairs. This was followed by paper presentations for the second half of Session 4, panel discussion for 2nd half and concluding remarks for the entire Session 4.

Day 2 of the Scientific Symposium 2023 started early with an engaging heritage walk being conducted at the Bengaluru PETE area with Ms. Shikha Desai as the walk leader from the INTACH Bengaluru Chapter. Back at the RVCA Campus, the event commenced with the introduction of the Chair of the 5th Session, Ar. Sathyaprakash Varanashi and the Co-Chairs, Prof. Mini Shastry & Ms. Shalini Dasgupta. The session progressed with the opening marks given by the Chair and Co-Chairs on the sub-theme of the session, Future of Conservation: Material and Technological Aspects followed by paper presentations by the participants. Session 5 concluded with the panel discussion by the chair and co-chairs and their respective remarks on the presentations. The process of concluding the Scientific Symposium 2023 commenced with summarization of the symposium by Mr. GSV Suryanarayana Murthy, South Zone Representative, ICOMOS India followed by concluding remarks by Ms. Shalini Dasgupta, Secretary, ICOMOS India. Dr. O.P. Bawane, Principal of RVCA addressed the audience with his remarks and thoughts on collaboration of SS23 with ICOMOS India followed by the Vote of Thanks by Prof. Bikramjit Chakraborty, Institutional Rep. of RVCA and an ICOMOS India member. The symposium concluded with artistic performances by RVCA students, bringing it to a successful and fruitful conclusion.



Glimpses from SS2023



















Collaborative Activities

NORTH ZONE & EPWG

Red Fort Heritage & Conservation Dialogue 04 March 2023

n Saturday, 4th March, ICOMOS North Zone organized a heritage dialogue at the Red Fort. The primary objective of this event was to provide an opportunity for its members, including architects, conservationists, historians, and students interested in cultural heritage, to explore the monument and gain insights into its history and significance. Additionally, the dialogue aimed to showcase the conservation work carried out by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) over the years and foster a deeper appreciation for cultural heritage and its preservation.

The event was envisioned by Smita Makhija, North Zone Representative, and facilitated by the North Zone EPWG Interim representative, Yash Gupta. They worked closely with the ASI and the resource person to ensure that the dialogue was informative and engaging.

The heritage dialogue was led by knowledgeable resource persons, including superintending archaeologist (Delhi circle) Dr. Pravin Singh, Conservation Assistant Mr. Ankur Vats, and the rest of the ASI Red Fort team. The event commenced at 9 AM with a discussion over the heritage management of the Red Fort, covering several facets and perspectives involved in the process. Subsequently, the walking tour covered the main highlights of the Red Fort, including the Diwan-i-Am, Diwan-i-Khas, Rang Mahal, and Khas Mahal. The members were also granted access to the river-side Pavilions of the Red Fort amongst many other lesser known buildings of the red fort.

The heritage dialogue achieved its objectives of providing a unique perspective on the history and significance of the Red Fort, showcasing the conservation work done by the ASI, and providing an opportunity for members to learn from a knowledgeable resource person. The dialogue also fostered a deeper appreciation for cultural heritage and the need for its preservation.

Following the heritage dialogue, a brunch was arranged for the members, which provided a platform for a fruitful discussion on heritage and the way forward. The participants discussed the further course of action for ICOMOS North Zone and brainstormed ideas for future events and initiatives that could promote the preservation of cultural heritage in the region. The members expressed their enthusiasm and commitment to work towards the common goal of preserving and promoting cultural heritage.

Overall, the heritage dialogue at the Red Fort was a well-organized event that provided a unique opportunity for the members to explore the monument and gain insights into its history and significance. The event's success can be attributed to the hard work and dedication of the organizers, resource persons, and the ASI. The members appreciated the efforts put in by ICOMOS North Zone and expressed their satisfaction with the heritage dialogue. They found the dialogue informative and engaging and commended the choice of the resource person.



Image Credit: Yash Gupta



Image Credit: Yash Gupta



Image Credit: Yash Gupta



Image Credit: Yash Gupta



NORTH-EAST ZONE

Guwahati Heritage Walk 26 March 2023

The North-East Zone and Rotary Club of Guwahati jointly organized the Guwahati Heritage Walk. The tour was led by Mr. Dilip Changkakoty with the assistance of Ms. Gitanjali Baruah. The walk started from the west bank of Dighalipukhuri and described Dighalipukhuri, Nabin Bardoloi Hall, Sessions Court, Chief Justice of High Court Bungalow, Latashil Barua, Medhi Bungalows, Ugratara Temple, Jorpukhuri and the residence site of Kalia Bhomora Barphukan.

The walk also described the heritage of the old royal shipping route from Naonjan to Saruchala - Barchala - Marabharlu - Deepar Beel - Khandajan and finally the archaeological site of Ambari. Both the organizations have been able to create awareness among the people about the preservation of heritage and other aspects of the walk. The organization has decided to arrange a workshop and training on "Heritage Guide" this year as per the public demands. News on the heritage walk on media can be found here.



Image Credit: Dilip Changakoty



Image Credit: Dilip Changakoty



Image Credit: Dainik Asom



Image Credit: Dainik Asom



Members' Corner

DILIP CHANGAKOTY

Intellectual Property Right as a Toll to Protect Traditional Knowledge and Practice

30 March 2023

Since ancient times, the Mayang region has been a center of magic. It is on the verge of extinction due to the younger generation's lack of interest in science. The so-called educated do not treat the Maestros with the dignity and respect they deserve. As a result, the younger generation will be unable to learn this science. Nonetheless, many practical knowledge sources like manuscripts, instruments, herbs, archeological sites, and other items have been preserved. Mayang has become a popular tourist destination in the modern era, thanks to the media. The people frequently use ultramodern recording devices to capture these practices, manuscripts and other materials. The maestros do not receive a cut of their earnings, as a result of which Mayang Anchalic College organized this discussion to educate the students as well as the maestros and teachers. Dr. Mahananda Borah, Principal of the College, presided over the seminar which was moderated by Assistant Professor Dr. Utpal Nath. Dilip Changkakoty, Expert member, ICICH ICOMOS, gave the keynote address on the benefits of laws and regulations in India such as copyright, Intellectual Property Act, geological tags, trademarks and others, as well as how the laws are violated by the general public including visitors; all details were discussed. Throughout the discussion, there was strong emphasis on preserving, protecting and preserving living heritage, as well as raising awareness among the society and the general public.



Image Credit: Dilip Changakoty



Image Credit: Dilip Changakoty

SANJIB KUMAR BORKAKOTI

Lecture on Contributions of Srimanta Sankaradeva

14 March 2023

Under the aegis of the contributions of Srimanta Sankaradeva chair attached with the Sanskrit Department, Panjab University, Chandigarh organized a national seminar and declamation competition on the life and contributions of Srimanta Sankaradeva. The chair's coordinator was Prof. Yojna Rawat.

On March 14, in the university's Golden Jubilee Hall, Dr. Sanjib gave a lecture on Srimanta Sankaradeva's contributions as part of the program. He focused on the medieval polymath's pan-India role and how he had influenced not only Assam's cultural landscape but also much of North India. Dr. Borkakoti discussed Srimanta Sankaradeva's influence on Bengali culture and the social structure of Odisha as well. The declamation contest was held the day before, on March 13. Five of the twenty students who entered the competition received prizes.



Image Credit: Sanjib Borkakoti



Image Credit: Sanjib Borkakoti



TAHZEEB FATIMA ROZY

Paper Presentation on 'A Conundrum of Identity, Recognition, and Conservation of Industrial Heritage in India'

25 February 2023

Tahzeeb Fatima Rozy, an ICOMOS India member and a doctorate scholar at Jamia Millia Islamia presented a paper at the ICOMOS India Annual Scientific Symposium 2023 that was organized on 25 & 26 February 2023. The paper discussed about the many factories and industrial sites in India that date from the colonial and post-independence periods. These factories and industrial sites are examples of intensively industrialized activities with profound historical evidence of man's work or the combined works of man and nature, industrial archaeology, and thus qualify as Industrial Heritage.

A region's industrial heritage is part of its cultural heritage. It is crucial to recognize that industrial heritage can be found at all stages of human development. The author's attempts to understand the prevalence of industrial heritage in India in this paper. Furthermore, using relevant case studies, the perception of Industrial heritage in terms of establishing its significance and conservation is discussed.



Image Credit: Tahzeeh Fatima Rozy

XAVIER BENEDICT

World Wetlands Day

04 February 2023

The 12th Annual Pulicat Day was celebrated on World Wetlands Day and was celebrated by AARDE Foundation. The Founder Trustee of AARDE Foundation and ICOMOS India member, Ar. Xavier Benedict, with his team of self help women group organized the following events: Kolam competition, ecology quiz, Chess and drawing competitions for children, traditional Catumaram race, heritage walk, and street folklore programs. Pulicat Lagoon is the second largest water body in the country and has maritime history spanning two millennia.

The Pulicat Lagoon covers an area of 759 sq.km located on the North of Chennai, is double the size of the city. The lagoon has lost more than 315 sq.km in the last four decades to developments, and its depths have reduced from 11 feet to 1.5 feet causing a geographic disaster. It has also reduced the livelihood of the fishermen who have been practicing the traditional environmental management system called Padu since the 13th century. Padu means rotational rights to fish in a particular area of the lagoon, which was a sustainable practice shaped over years and maintained a well based environmental system until two decades back. The wetland is one of the two North-East Monsoon Clouds attracting wetlands in India. And was the center of the Cotton Route. Pulicat Day is celebrated to glorify the built environment and natural heritage which is very unique to India. AARDE Foundation is hoping to bring the Pulicat Lagoon into RAMSAR Site Convention to bring back the lost glory.



Image Credit: Xavier Benedict

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

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