

ICOMOS INDIA



July-September 2021 *Introducing Institutional Members' Corner*



Amber Fort, Rajasthan, 2017. Photo credits: Ms Saranya Dharshini

Inside...



High Altitude North Indian Settlements: Shared Built and Ecological Heritage

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National Scientific Committee on Intangible Cultural Heritage & EPWG presents ESYMPOSIUM on Intangible Cultural Heritage for Sustainable Management of Historic Towns in South Asia: Theory to Practice [June-July 2021 2:30 - 4:30 PM (IST)]				
Convergence of Experts from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka				
Interactions and Interdependency - Tangible to Intangible: Interactions, Contradictions and Challenges in historic towns	Tools and Strategies - Role of intangible cultural heritage in sustainability of Historic towns	Intangible Cultural Heritage as driver for Sustainability through Tourism in historic towns	Role of Intangible Cultural Heritage in heritage economics of historic towns	Reflections and Ground Realities - Intangible Cultural Heritage in Historic Towns
19 th June 2021	27 th June 2021	10 th July 2021	17 th July 2021	31 st July 2021

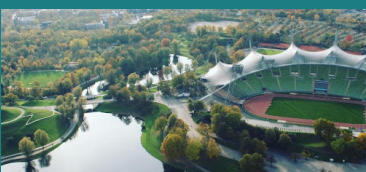
e-Symposium on Intangible Cultural Heritage for Sustainable Management of Historic Towns in South Asia: Theory to Practice" - A Webinar Series by NSC-ICH And EPWG (Session 3, Session 4 & Session 5)

.....(10)



Local Area Plans (LAP): Why, What and How? - A Webinar by NSC HTV ad EPWG North Zone

.....(12)



Publication, "The Heritage of the Olympic Games- Future Outlook, World Heritage List and Way Forward" in "The Modern Heritage of the Olympic Games"

.....(19)

From the Secretariat

The July to September quarter saw two Executive Committee Members meeting (ExCom 08 and ExCom 09) The ExCom 08 meeting was held on 30th July between 3.00 - 5.30 PM (IST) and Ex Com 09 was held on 18th September between 11.00 - 1.30 PM (IST). Both meetings were held through the online Zoom Platform. Post COVID onslaught, ICOMOS India tried to keep up with its members through varied online activities.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1 NSC ICH-EPWG e-Symposium on Intangible Cultural Heritage for Sustainable Management of Historic Towns in South Asia: Theory to Practice: Session 3, 4 and 5

The National Scientific Committee on Intangible Cultural Heritage (NSC ICH) along with EPWG of ICOMOS India conducted an e-Symposium on 'Intangible Cultural Heritage for Sustainable Management of Historic Towns in South Asia: Theory to Practice'. The First two sessions were held in June. The next three sessions were held on 10 July, 17 July and 31 July 2021 with themes as 'Intangible Cultural Heritage as driver for sustainability through Tourism in Historic Towns', 'Role of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Heritage Economics of Historic Towns' and 'Reflections and Ground Realities – Intangible Cultural Heritage in Historic Towns', respectively. [For more details, refer to pages 10-11.](#)

2 Announcement of Annual Scientific Symposium 2021 and Call for Abstracts

The Annual Scientific Symposium was announced to be held on 19-20 November 2021. A call for abstracts was sent on 06 July 2021, with 15 August 2021 as the deadline to receive all abstracts. 'Cultural Landscapes: Transformations and Emerging Ideas' was announced as the main theme for the Symposium with six sub-themes as topics for abstract submission.

ICOMOS India opened Registrations for the Annual Scientific Symposium 2021 on 10 September 2021 with an 'Early Bird' category to avail special discounts. The last date to register was 15 November 2021 until 2359 hours IST.

3 Review of Master Plan Delhi 2041 (MPD-2041)

A review of the Master Plan for Delhi 2041 was undertaken by NSC HTV along with North Zone and EPWG North Zone. The report was submitted to DDA on 23 August 2021. The aim of the feedback was to develop a review document that will incorporate objections, comments and suggestions from the members of ICOMOS India concerning the MPD-2041 to enable efficient retention, protection, management and sustainability of the intrinsic and diverse heritage assets in the city of Delhi. [For more details, refer to page 13.](#)

4 NSC-WG Open House 2021

The President, ICOMOS India initiated ICOMOS India's first Online NSC Open House, a new scientific activity of NSC - WG. This event was announced to be held on 13 and 14 August 2021, with an intent to showcase key activities (research, outreach, collaborative, etc.) of all National Scientific Committees (NSCs) and Working Groups (WGs) of ICOMOS India, for the benefit & knowledge of the new ICOMOS India members. [For detailed report, refer to pages 6-7.](#)

5 Announcement of ICOMOS India Standing Committee for Heritage@Risk

The ICOMOS India Standing Committee was constituted and announced on 13 August 2021. The Committee is constituted for a period of 2 years to address the Heritage @ Risk matters brought to ICOMOS India notice by members.

The current committee is composed of the following members:

1. President ICOMOS India - Mr Navin Piplani;
2. Secretary ICOMOS India - Ms Shalini Dasgupta;
3. Zonal Representation - Specific to the Zone in which the alert is raised;
4. Steering Committee Advisory Member – Prof Sanghmitra Basu;
5. Steering Committee Advisory Member – Ms Poonam Verma;
6. NSC Counsellor - Dr Arun Menon;
7. Relevant NSC Coordinator(s);
8. Expert Member (ICOMOS India Member/ Non-member)

The Standard Operating Procedure for identifying Heritage @ Risk and bringing it to ICOMOS India notice was additionally circulated.



DIGITAL COMMUNICATION

ICOMOS India was live.
Published by ZOOM • September 24 •

Public Lecture by Dr Sangeeta Bagga, on "Life and Works of Pierre Jeanneret",
Organised by NSC 20C in collaboration with EPWG

6 Announcement of 'High Altitude North Indian Settlements: Shared built and ecological heritage' Webinar

A webinar on 'High Altitude North Indian Settlements: Shared built and ecological heritage' organised by North Zone, ICOMOS India was announced to be held on 29 August 2021. The focus of the webinar was to understand the topology of high-altitude settlements based on three segments with variations according to geological, ecological and settlement types and to create a matrix of linkages and parameters of inter-dependence for sustenance and identity special/ unique character/ characteristics retention.

7 Announcement of '20 C Narratives- India and the World' Public Talks

NSC 20C in collaboration with EPWG have organised a monthly e-series of Public Talks on '20 C Narratives- India and the World'. The series commenced with its first talk on 29 August 2021, ti-tled, "A Transitioning city - Mapping Art Deco culture of the 20th Century in Madras" by Ms Prath-yaksha Krishna Prasad, an Architect and Urban Conservationist. The second talk was subse-quentially announced on "Pierre Jeaneeret-the Craftsman Architect" by Dr Sangeeta Mehta Bagga. The second talk was held on 24 September 2021. The series is currently ongoing and the follow-ing talks will be announced shortly.

8 Announcement of ICOMOS India Membership for the Year 2022:

On 31 August 2021, ICOMOS India announced the opening of the First Cycle of New Memberships and Renewals for the year 2022 from 1 September 2021 for a period of one month. The subsequent cycles will be announced shortly.

9 Online Lecture 'Reducing Risk, Raising Resilience: Recovering the Public Spaces of Shahjahanabad through Participatory Conservation and Ecological Urbanism'

The North Zone of ICOMOS India in association with ICOMOS Canada announced, on 13 Sep-tember 2021, an online lecture on "Reducing Risk, Raising Resilience: Recovering the Public Spaces of Shahjahanabad through Participatory Conservation and Ecological Urbanism", by Pro-fessor Mario Santana Quintero. The lecture was held on 17 September 2021. The discussion spoke about the documentation of historic buildings through photogrammetry and scanning, and overall remote site reconnaissance of monuments and historic fabric during the Pandemic. [For details, refer to page 5.](#)

10 Announcement for the post of Administrative Assistant & Appointment of Administrative Assistant

A call for applications for the post of Administrative Assistant at the ICOMOS India Secretariat Office was sent out on 28 July 2021. The applications were invited by 18 August 2021.

The Executive Board of ICOMOS India selected Mr Karan Joshi for the position of Administrative Assistant to work at the Secretariat. Ms Karan Joshi joined the ICOMOS India Secretariat Office from 20 September 2021. Karan is a BSc graduate and has previously worked as an assistant at the Secretariat of the Vice-President of India.

Financial Matters

The quarter saw the appointment of Accounting Consultant from 1st August 2021 for a period of one year. Aspects related to accounting including all matters of statutory compliances, and procedures for monthly accounts were streamlined for the year.

Registrations for ICOMOS India's Annual Scientific Symposium were initiated with the design of a user-friendly Registration Portal embedded within the ICOMOS India website. Simultaneous programming of the website to provide immediate updates to participants was also activated. A QR code for payments was subsequently added for ease of payments.

Invoices for payment with confirmation of registration after due verification of accounts and identity documents have been processed on a weekly basis, to ensure timely follow-up and updates to all registered participants.

Zone News

NORTH ZONE

High Altitude North Indian Settlements: Shared Built and Ecological Heritage

29 August 2021

The Himalayas, one of the youngest mountain ranges in the world, forms a continuous border spanning nearly 1600 miles along the northern border of the Indian Subcontinent. Himalayas are eco-sensitive fragile places of immense natural and cultural biodiversity. Geologically, Himalayas are divided into three ranges, namely the upper Himalayas, middle Himalayas and lower Himalayas.

Development in all three ranges is a challenging task because of the varied altitudinal sensitivity and fragile ecosystems at times. The cities and settlements are under tremendous pressure from tourism centric growth. This often creates conflict with the principles of sustainability and indigenous life and culture. The cultural understanding of high-altitude indigenous settlements is closely inter-related with nature, where humans and nature share a bond of mutual respect. This further resulted in the vernacular built forms and culturally dominated lifestyle practices of intangible cultural heritage.

Aim

The proposed webinar on “High Altitude North Indian settlements: Shared built and ecological heritage” had the following aims:

1. To understand the Topology of High-altitude settlements based on three segments with variations according to geological, ecological and settlement types.
2. To create a matrix of linkages and parameters of interdependence, for sustenance and identity and special/ unique character/ characteristics retention.

Objectives

This webinar-based e-colloquium series was focused on analyzing the identified settlements in each altitude zone by using them as the basis for developing a methodology for studying the shared responsibilities leading to developing a framework of best practices on the principle of People-Nature-culture. The intrinsic relationship between built and ecological resources was understood from the concept of shared heritage and shared responsibilities. It further aimed to create connections with the local knowledge partners in the selected cities/ regions to understand the management resources taking place within selected settlements.

Outcome

The outcome of the webinar-based e-Colloquium was- To Identify the sacrosanct heritage components within the selected settlements from the multi-stakeholder perspectives such as heritage economies which becomes a tipping point for the management of new/future development based on thematic circuits of trade development, tourist development or infrastructural developments.

Summary of Presentations

Sub-theme 1: Heritage of Petroglyphs of Spiti and Tabo Monastery in The Himachal Cold Desert of Lahaul Spiti; Speaker: Dr Purnima Chauhan, IAS Officer (retd.) Himachal cadre

The first presentation focused on the intangible heritage of Ladakh presented by Dr Purnima Chauhan. She mentioned the Fascinating and Enigmatic traces

ICOMOS INDIA Council on Monuments and Sites

High Altitude North Indian Settlements Shared Built and Ecological Heritage

An e-Colloquium organised and hosted by ICOMOS-India North Zone and Emerging Professional Working Group (EPWG)

Dr. Monalisa Bhardwaj Architect & Academician	Prof. Anuradha Chaturvedi Associate Professor of Architectural Conservation at School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi	Dr. Purnima Chauhan IAS Secretary (Culture) Former Director Urban Development & Town and Country Planning	Dr. Ashwani Kumar Assistant Professor at Malaviya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur	Prof. Kanika Bansal Deputy Dean Academic Affairs, Chitkara School of Planning & Architecture, Chitkara University

With
Smita Datta Makhija (North Zone Representative, ICOMOS India)
& Aditi Rai (North Zone Representative, EPWG-ICOMOS India)

Session Coordinators: Kanika Bansal & Shahzad Ahmed Malik

Organising Team: Gaurav Thapak, Lipika Khanna, Monalisa Bhardwaj, Minalini Atrey & Tanisha Tewari

of Buddhism in motifs, stupas or tirthas in the Rock Art of Spiti Valley, which are the lines of communication since ages and the Lari Rock Art conveys the feelings of preliterate times. Logistic support and lack of infrastructure is a matter of concern in the preservation of heritage. She also suggested that we should list down the heritage and follow the policies of NITI Ayog for making an impact..

Sub-theme 2: Hill Stations Character a Manifestation of Distinctive Socio-Cultural Preferences; Speaker: Dr Monalisa Bharadwaj (Architect & Academician)

Dr. Monalisa Bhardwaj talked about the distinctive built environment typologies in Himalayan region. She also discussed the Hill settlements and cluster of hill stations in the Indian context. Distinctive Urban Morphology, transition phases of evolution, architectural character of public buildings, vantage points, recreational spaces including public, private and institutional were the major aspects of the discussion. “Recreational spaces are an integral part and conservation of their character is essential to retain distinctiveness, uniqueness and to sustain the local economy of hill stations” she said.

Sub-theme 3: Assessing Risk and Resilience, Thresholds of Sustainability of Settlements in Ladakh; Speaker: Prof Anuradha Chaturvedi, Head of Conservation Department, SPA, New Delhi

The presentation focused on the innovation and responsiveness of settlements in Leh valley. Prof Anuradha also mentioned about the evolution, cultural landscape, settlement typology, effect of climate change, tangible and intangible heritage, diversity of Leh which needs to conserve and

encourage for development. She suggested engaging with HIPA for conservation and development of heritage sites.

Sub-theme 4: Development Predicaments in Hill Stations-A Perspective on Building Regulations of Shimla; Speaker: Dr Ashwani Kumar, Assistant Professor at MNIT, Jaipur

Dr Ashwani Kumar shared his perspective towards the growth in urbanisation, unauthorised development within the core of the city and its impact on Shimla. He also mentions the issues due to unauthorised constructions on environment and planning of hill town. “We don’t follow the carrying capacity and the characteristics of the place during construction”, said Dr Ashwani.

Sub-theme 5: Balancing Development & Heritage Conservation- Colonial Hill town of Shimla; Speaker: Prof Kanika Bansal, Professor and Deputy Dean, Chitkara University, Punjab.

The presentation started with the introduction about colonial hill towns in India which then focused on the establishment and development of Shimla and its urban morphology. Prof Kanika Bansal also talked about the Colonial built heritage, risk due to negligence and threats on destroyed built heritage, negative impact of unplanned construction and excessive tourism activities.

To sum-up, she said that the contemporary challenge lies in balancing the interests for bridging the gap between Development and Heritage and that there should be a “re-thinking for establishing a link between the old and the new development”, she suggested.

The session was concluded by the vote of thanks by Ar Gaurav Thapak, ICOMOS India EPWG North Zone member. The session was managed by a team of EPWG members namely, Ar Naina Saxena as rapporteur, Ar Rahul Bhola as platform coordinator and Ar Nistha Rathore as Q/A session in charge.

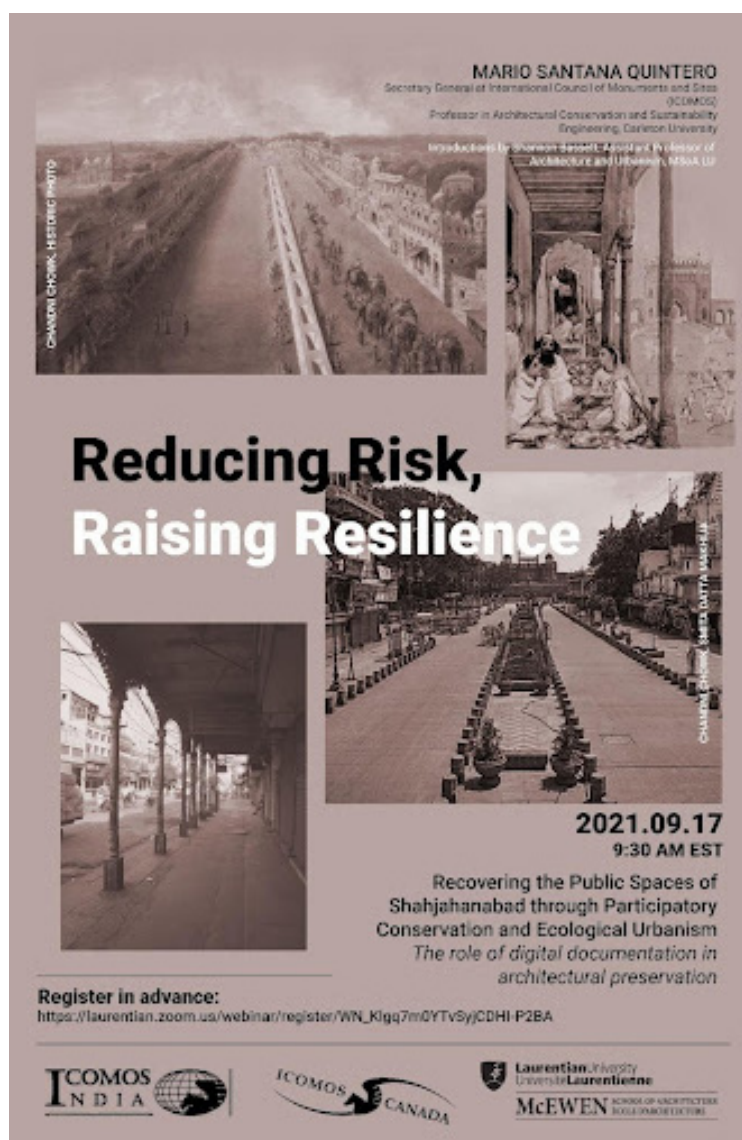
The coordination provided by the panel chairs, speakers and the fellow EPWG volunteers, helped in smooth execution. The learning’s were transferred and instant modifications were done accordingly to make further proceedings more efficient and enriching. The presentations were followed by a Q/A session, and a summary of each session by the respective panel chairs, which provided a window to get to know the potential way forwards for each topic.

Reducing Risk, Raising Resilience: Recovering the Public Spaces of Shahjahanabad through Participatory Conservation and Ecological Urbanism **17 September 2021**

ICOMOS India North Zone organised a session on documentation with ICOMOS Canada, and the McEwen School of Architecture, Laurentian University on “Reducing Risk, Raising Resilience: Recovering the Public Spaces of Shahjahanabad through Participatory Conservation and Ecological Urbanism” on 17 September 2021 at 0930 hours EST.

Prof Mario Santana Quintero spoke about using cutting edge technology with minimal investment to create an information knowledge base for specific purposes, especially to collect data to enable site specific design intervention in complex living heritage areas. Surveys which took years in the 1980’s can now be completed in days at a war footing with the current state of art digital technology.

Accurate ground information can be recorded and can then be quickly updated, changing the status of the heritage. It also makes it possible for students and young professionals to take charge of collecting data themselves rather than relying on super specialists. This gears heritage professionals to make evidence-based solutions and test them to ensure that the intervention planned will enhance the significance of the heritage and result in benefits for the inhabitant communities.



MARIO SANTANA QUINTERO
Secretary General (International Council) of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)
Professor in Architectural Conservation and Sustainability Engineering, Carleton University
Invited Lecture by ICOMOS INDIA North Zone and Professor of ARCHITECTURE AND URBANISM, MSAA (U)

Reducing Risk, Raising Resilience

2021.09.17
9:30 AM EST

Recovering the Public Spaces of Shahjahanabad through Participatory Conservation and Ecological Urbanism
The role of digital documentation in architectural preservation

Register in advance:
https://laurentian.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Kiqq7m0YTVsYjCDHI-P2BA

ICOMOS INDIA | ICOMOS CANADA | Laurentian University / Université Laurentienne | McEwen School of Architecture

NSC News

**A REPORT BY NSC COUNSELLOR,
DR ARUN MENON**

***NSC Open House
13-14 August 2021***

The Scientific Council of ICOMOS India envisioned the need for an NSC/WG Open House soon after the AGM where each NSC chooses to showcase any of their past year activities such as webinars, publications, research activities, etc. This was primarily targeted at new members who have joined ICOMOS India. The first Open House was conducted on 13th and 14th of August 2021 in an online mode. While the event was primarily held with the aim of familiarising new members of ICOMOS India on the functioning of the NSCs and WGs, the event turned out to be an effective platform for igniting cross-NSC and WG linkages in the activities through the year. The event was attended by close to 60 members of ICOMOS India; Steering Committee members of the Scientific Council, Ar Kamalika Bose and Prof Sanghamitra Basu summed up the key learnings from the Open House. Presidential comments were given by Dr Navin Piplani, President – ICOMOS India, and closing remarks were given by Dr Rima Hooja, Vice President – ICOMOS India.

Open House, Day 1: Summary points by Ar Kamalika Bose

1. Much greater inter-NSC dialogue and cooperation is required to strengthen the body and form of scientific work. Number of synergies are clearly evident in individual activities and plan for each NSC and collaboration would hold the key to realising many of them.
2. President proposed a one-year agenda for all NSC to align with and work on theme of India@75 and how could Icomos India contribute to this through its scientific work
3. Scientific Counsellor highlighted the significance of introducing co-coordinators, many of whom are also EPWG members, as a strategic step in nurturing the second rung of leadership for scientific work within NSCs.
4. Significant strides have been taken for 2020-21 towards achieving goals of the Triennial plan 2020-23. Salient new initiatives among them are formalising the Scientific Council facilitated by the Steering Committee, constituting a Standing Committee for Heritage Alerts, holding the first NSC Open House, and holding online presentations for NSC research grants evaluation.
5. Nine NSC Coordinators presented on the first day — introducing their NSC, the leadership team and member profile, objectives and past year activities, along with plans for the next one year.
6. Based on presentation by NSC Cultural Tourism (CT): discussions followed on whether an individual's activities can count as NSC activity; or does collective action and working fall under the ambit? Also use of ICOMOS logo for such activities was discussed at length.
7. Based on presentation by NSC Twentieth Century Heritage (20C): discussions followed on protocols for individual NSCs having their own newsletter. The Tech Talk series was lauded as a good initiative to generate expert-led discussions of 20C thematic and relevant issues for all members
8. NSCs to coordinate with Communications subcommittee for constituting NSC social media pages and Youtube upload protocols and Publications subcommittee for use of logos and newsletter protocols.
9. Based on presentation by NSC Vernacular Architecture (VA): discussions followed on generating member enthusiasm and participation in NSC

activities. What should be the metrics of performance within an NSC in a voluntary organisation based on membership fees?

10. The President suggested an approach where all members are viewed in 3 categories: a) members who are driving the organisation b) members who are fence-sitters and observers c) a mid-group who will be available when needed and can be motivated periodically. This third group was the one that needed nurturing. What could be creative ways to periodically engage them and harness their potential.
11. Based on presentation by NSC Cultural Routes and NSC Cultural Landscapes (CR & CL): discussion whether these two should be clubbed together in future for more effective working. To follow big picture thinking and big project approach where pooling of energy and resources of multiple, aligned NSCs can be facilitated.
12. Based on presentation by Working Group on Climate Change and Heritage (CCH): What would be the modalities to be aware about and collaborate with other institutes and organisations who have a mandate on Climate Change? Does the WG have to approach the SC/institute to express the intention of collaboration; eg: IIT Madras group on climate change.
13. Based on presentation by Working Group on Rights-Based Action (RBA): discussion on broadening of certain activities where other ICOMOS members can also be involved and make them more inclusive. The theme is cross-cutting, and hence the WG actions need to be in a similar spirit too.
14. Based on the overall progression of the day, it was evident that the Steering Committee also needs to discuss and propose ways in which deeper inter-NSC exchange and dialogue can be made possible.

Open House, Day 2: Summary points by Prof Sangamitra Basu

Scientific Counsellor reported the previous day's discussions and highlighted the importance of cross NSC activities and collaborative projects. On Day 2 a total of thirteen presentations were made - eleven by NSCs, one by a WG and one by EPWG. All presentations followed a general format touching upon genesis of the NSC/WG, composition of membership, past activities and a road map indicating proposed future activities. Each presentation was followed by discussion, clarifications, and suggestions.

Key points that emerged during discussions are:

1. Based on presentation by NSC Architectural Heritage Management (AHM): NSC AHM should focus on interpretation of archaeological sites . President suggested that NSC AHM may provide scholarly and intellectual training to members of other NSCs by inviting experts, also exploring ways to present/ consider archaeological sites as living entities .
2. In response to a query, Scientific Counsellor clarified that White Paper of any NSC/ WG is meant to consolidate the thought process of the NSCs and listing of activities. There is no need of getting the White Paper approved; however activities of any NSC need separate approval as per the specified format.
3. Based on presentation by NSC Industrial Heritage (IH): President opened that NSC Industrial Heritage may focus on post Industrial age heritage resources of India and work on Heritage Alerts in collaboration with Climate Change WG as well as 20 C Heritage.
4. Based on presentation by NSC Historic Towns and Villages (HTV): Living quality and the enabling approach of historic towns and villages are the main ideas behind all activities and research proposals of NSC HTV. Importance of infill/ contextual design in historic settings was stressed upon. Feedback was provided on ways to incorporate this aspect in training of conservation architects.
5. The President agreed to the proposed change of name of NSC HTV in tandem with the International Committee.
6. Based on presentation by NSC Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH): Intangible cultural heritage and cultural tourism are intricately linked, and any activity and research proposal of NSC ICH should consider integration of cultural tourism aspects.
7. Based on presentation by NSC Training (TC): A general consensus was there about the enormous significance of NSC Training's role in reviewing and formulating guidelines for capacity building and training of all levels of conservation professionals and technicians in the Indian context.
8. Based on presentation by NSC Theory and Philosophy of Conservation and Restoration (Theophil): NSC Theophil emphasised on strengthening the 'basic and core' ideas, enabling young members and focusing on 'how to interact with others'. The flower shaped model explaining the essential collaborative nature of this NSC, and a plan for a series of webinars engaging with other NSCs were well appreciated .
9. Based on presentation by NSC Risk Preparedness (RP): NSC RP also pointed out that risk preparedness relates to and overlaps with focus areas of other NSCs and hence collaboration is essential to the workings of this scientific committee. Presentation of an image, mapping its members' association with other scientific groups, was highly appreciated and it serves as a model for other SC/ WGs.
10. Suggestion was made to consider hazards resulting out of activities by other practitioners due to ignorance or lack of proper knowledge about heritage. Programme for identifying risks in the Indian context is also essential.
11. Workings of NSCs for Training, Theophil and Risk Preparedness, it emerged, are central to activities of other NSCs and need continuous interactions and collaborations.
12. Scientific Counsellor suggested that each NSC comes out with a diagrammatic model showing association of each of its members with other NSCs/ WGs, and thus emerging with a clearer picture for possible collaborative activities and projects.
13. Based on presentation by NSC Heritage Documentation (HD): Heritage documentation needs to be standardised and made affordable.
14. Based on presentation by NSC Earthen Architectural Heritage (EAH): The pan-Indian glossary of terms for earthen architecture by respective NSC needs to take into consideration works already carried out and data compiled by organisations/ institutions engaged in similar fields, say Auroville, and if need be, collaborate with them.
15. Based on presentation by the Working Group on Water Heritage (WH): Activities of Water Heritage WG focuses on manifestation of water as heritage. Scientific Counsellor advised to adopt a strategy for identifying a critical mass for mapping of water heritage.
16. Based on presentation by the Emerging Professionals Working Group (EPWG): EPWG has evolved as an indispensable group for all activities of ICOMOS India. It's mentor mentee programme, works related to multilingual logo and initiation of Global Cafe are setting up new benchmarks.
17. Based on presentation by NSC Fortifications and Military Heritage (FORT): Past activities and road map of NSC Fort shows how an approach of collaborating with Tourism Department and local bodies go a long way to establish ICOMOS India's contribution as an advisory body and firmly establishes its role in management of heritage resources jointly with the local bodies. This is a positive lesson that should be adopted by other NSCs.
18. Based on presentation by NSC Mural Painting (MP): Role of NSC mural painting, though at present is a small group, is of immense value. Reviving this NSC and possible amalgamation/ reorganisation of related NSCs and Working Groups need to be explored.

NSC TWENTIETH CENTURY

The vision of the National Scientific Committee of 20 Century Heritage (NSC-20C) is identifying, protecting, conserving and promoting India's 20 Century Heritage. The objectives are to understand India's modernity, to identify 20 Century Heritage in the Indian Context and facilitate protection. In addition, NSC 20 C also endeavors to celebrate the values and significance of 20 C heritage, through public outreach and awareness.

On-going Activities

Thematic Framework

The first phase of developing a Thematic Framework took into consideration the cities of Mumbai (Core Team: Ms Nityaa Lakshmi Iyer, Ms Ritika Jharia and Ms Saranya Dharshini) and Delhi and focused on identifying the different societal processes of the city that

shaped its evolution and collating a list of significant buildings or ensembles that are currently not part of the city's notified heritage list. The study was limited to the pre-independence era and included the assessment of intangible values from this period that may add significance to the heritage properties from another period. This work was executed through ICOMOS India's Research Grant 2019. NSC 20 C has expanded this study of investigating the processes, attributes, and criteria for the thematic categorisation of 20th-century sites to include additional cities- Ahmedabad (Core Team: Ms Chirashree Thakkar and Ms Nirzary Pujara), Kolkata (led by Ms Indrani Sarkar) and Goa (Core Team: Ms Annabel Lopez and Ms Saranya Dharshini). Applications for grants in the 2021 cycle have been submitted for both Kolkata and Goa. The Goa Thematic Framework is in collaboration with EPWG as a Strategic Partner.

Kala Academy

A request for a Heritage Alert raised by the Charles Correa Foundation was forwarded to ISC 20 C by the ICOMOS International Secretariat. Prof Kiran Joshi, Secretary General, ISC 20 C, requested the Charles Correa Foundation for a Statement of Significance. NSC 20 C members Ms Lipika Khanna, Ms Nityaa Lakshmi Iyer, Ms Ritika Jharia and Ms Saranya Dharshini assisted the Charles Correa Foundation (CCF) in formulating the Statement of Significance.

New Initiatives

Tech Talks

NSC20C encourages knowledge sharing, open dialogue, discussion, and debate amongst members at its monthly meeting by inviting a NSC20C member to present on any aspects of 20thC architecture. The talks focus on conservation and range from research to ongoing and executed projects. Organized by the Programme Coordinators (Ms Lakshmi R and Ms Sneha Gireesh) and Outreach Coordinator (Ms Lipika Khanna), the 45 minutes presentation is followed by 15 minutes of Q&A.

July 2021 - Capitol Complex Heritage Project, Chandigarh by Dr. Arman Singh
August 2021 - Conservation of New India Assurance Building by Mr Jatin Ambani

September 2021 - Assessment and repair programme for conservation of precast panels: Gandhi Bhawan by Ms Bhawna Dandona

NSC 20C Bulletin

In April 2021, NSC20C started a quarterly e-bulletin. The first issue, April to June 2021 which was compiled by Ms Lipika Khanna and edited by Ms Annabel Lopez and Ms Ritika Jharia was circulated only among NSC 20 C members. Henceforth, it is going to be widely circulated.

NSC RISK PREPAREDNESS

Monthly CultuRisk Tech-Talk & Members Meeting 11 September 2021

The motivation for the NSC RP Monthly CultuRisk Tech-Talk & Members Meeting arose from the NSC Open House 2021 event of ICOMOS India, where a similar idea was shared by NSC 20C. This NSC activity is an opportunity to bring together the interest group in a regular twin themed event- a short talk and a discussion meeting. With the difficulties of working and meeting in the times of pandemic, there is a need to adapt and encourage involvement by the members of the NSC with a greater vigour. With attention spans becoming lesser and number of webinar events becoming greater in number, the short-packed event aims to fulfil the dual purpose of knowledge sharing and engagement.

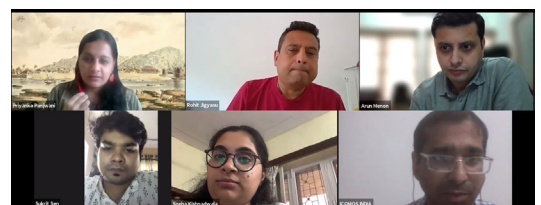
The objectives of the National Scientific Committee on Risk Preparedness (RP) focuses on the thematic area of the Strategic Plan which is 'Heritage & Resilience: Recovery from Pandemic & Human Crisis'.

This activity will provoke discussion on this theme and will also relate to all the other 6 themes in the Strategic Plan. As per the ICOMOS India Strategic Plan 2020- 23, Knowledge building and Archiving is the foremost Action Policy for the NSCs. This activity aligns with the policy as it aims to build new knowledge and archive the knowledge that is already available. The activity satisfies the objective of MoA of ICOMOS India: Awareness and Capacity Building for Young Professionals, Outreach and Advocacy, Heritage Education.

The 32 Members of NSC RP in 2021 have a great variety of personal experience in the field of disaster management- including 6 expert members and 10 emerging professional members. Each of them will be invited to present a short talk/ presentation on their personal opinion, global perspective, aspirations, past research or expected future activities in the field of disaster risk preparedness and cultural heritage. The selection of the topic will be entirely the choice of the participant, within the wider theme of 'Culture and Risks'.

The schedule for the meeting was decided after a quick Whatsapp group poll by the members and finalized on the 2nd Saturday of every month at 4:00 PM IST. All the NSC RP members are informed via email prior to the event. The recorded talk is proposed to be shared afterwards with ICOMOS India Secretariat for wider dissemination excluding the internal meeting discussion. Support for meeting scheduling and recording is duly received from ICOMOS India Secretariat.

The activity will not only help the new and/ or silent members to know about the interests and initiatives of the other members, but also encourages them and give direction to their ideas in the field. It will help bring energy into other NSC activities when members get a chance to interact often. It will help build knowledge and awareness about different risks in the Indian context and encourage brainstorming on mitigation and adaptation strategies.



Events Calendar

July to September 2021

DATE	NSC / ZONE / INSTITUTE	POINT OF CONTACT	NAME OF THE EVENT
10/7/2021	NSC ICH & EPWG	Niyati Jigyasu/ Mrinalini Attrey, NSC ICH Coordinator/ Saranya Dharshini, EPWG National Representative	e-Symposium - Intangible Cultural Heritage for Sustainable Management of Historic Towns in South Asia: Theory to Practice (Session 3)
17/7/2021	NSC ICH & EPWG	Niyati Jigyasu/ Mrinalini Attrey, NSC ICH Coordinator/ Saranya Dharshini, EPWG National Representative	e-Symposium - Intangible Cultural Heritage for Sustainable Management of Historic Towns in South Asia: Theory to Practice (Session 4)
30/7/2021	NSC HTV & EPWG North Zone	Niyati Jigyasu, NSC HTV Coordinator HTV/ Aditi Rai, EPWG North Zone Representative	Webinar - Importance, Process and Use of Local Area Plans
31/7/2021	NSC ICH & EPWG	Niyati Jigyasu/ Mrinalini Attrey, NSC ICH Coordinator / Saranya Dharshini, EPWG National Representative	e-Symposium - Intangible Cultural Heritage for Sustainable Management of Historic Towns in South Asia: Theory to Practice (Session 5)
13/8/2021	NSC Counselor	NSC Counselor - Arun Menon	NSC Open House
29/8/2021	North Zone & EPWG North Zone	Smita Datta Makhija, North Zone Representative/ Aditi Rai, EPWG North Zone Representative	Webinar - High Altitude North Indian Settlements: Shared Built and Ecological Heritage
29/8/2021	NSC 20C & EPWG	Annabel Lopez, NSC 20C Coordinator/ Lakshmi R & Sneha Gireesh, NSC 20C/ Saranya Dharshini, EPWG National Representative	Public Talk Series - 20 C Narratives- India and the World: Art Deco Architecture by Art Deco Madras (Talk 1)
17/9/2021	North Zone in collaboration with ICOMOS Canada	Smita Datta Makhija	Reducing Risk, Raising Resilience: Recovering the Public Spaces of Shahjahanabad through Participatory Conservation and Ecological Urbanism"
24/9/2021	NSC 20C & EPWG	Annabel Lopez, NSC 20C Coordinator/ Lakshmi R & Sneha Gireesh, NSC 20C/ Saranya Dharshini, EPWG National Representative	Public Talk Series - 20 C Narratives- India and the World: Pierre Jeanneret - The Craftsman Architect (Talk 2)

20C Narratives India and the World

CONCEPT OF LOCAL AREA PLANNING

A Local Area Plan (LAP) sets out a strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of a specific area within a local authority and for a timescale as specified by the authority.

MPD -2021 envisages an integrated 4 tier system of spatial plans: Master plan, Zonal development plan, Local area plans and Layout plans. The ward plan for a legally defined electoral ward is thus a third tier disaggregation of MPD-21. It is to be prepared through the participatory process. To provide a mapped framework of 272 wards of the MCD. Each ward has an average population of 50,000 and is represented by an elected councillor.

Reflections and Ground Realities of ICH

1. Intersections and Interdependency – Tangible to Intangible (Interactions, Contestations and Challenges) in historic towns
2. Tools and Strategies – Role of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Sustainability of Historic towns
3. ICH as driver for Sustainability through Tourism in Historic Towns
4. Role of ICH in Heritage Economics of Historic Towns
5. Reflections and Ground Realities of ICH

Collaborative Activities

NSC INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE AND EMERGING PROFESSIONAL WORKING GROUP

e-Symposium on Intangible Cultural Heritage for Sustainable Management of Historic Towns in South Asia: Theory to Practice

NSC-ICH & EPWG NSC ICH and EPWG ICOMOS India with institutional collaboration from Center for Heritage Management, Ahmedabad University and IIT-BHU Varanasi organised an e-Symposium on Intangible Cultural Heritage for Sustainable Management of Historic Towns in South Asia: Theory to Practice. Spaced out over five thematic sessions in the months of June and July 2021, the Symposium served as a platform for sharing and exchange of ideas that supports to develop insights on the inter-relationships between tangible and intangible elements, especially in context of historic towns and the approaches for good practice in South Asia.

Of the five thematic sessions, two were conducted in the month of June, “Intersections and interdependency – Tangible to Intangible (Interactions, Contestations and Challenges)” on June 19 and “Tools and Strategies” on June 27 whereas three other sessions in the month of July, “Intangible Cultural Heritage as a driver for Tourism in Historic Towns” on July 10, “Role of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Heritage Economics of Historic Towns” on July 17, and “Ground Realities and Reflections” on July 31. They were moderated by Ms Niyati Jigyasu, Ms Ishita Shah and Ms Saranya Dharshini respectively.

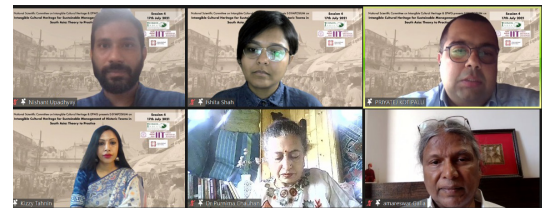
Session 3 - Intangible Cultural Heritage as a driver for Tourism in Historic Towns 10 July 2021

The session began with a welcome note by Ar Shalini Dasgupta, Secretary-ICOMOS India, and was followed by a keynote speech from Dr Sharif Shams Imon.

Furthermore, Mr Sajjad Kausar, Dr Pushpalata Garg, Dr Monalisa Maharjan and Ms Ishita Shah, presented their cases based on the diverse setting and historic contexts, ranging from Lahore, Almore and Kathmandu. The presentations explored certain aspects of sustainable tourism by establishing interlink ages with SDGs, built & natural environment & community participation. The session was moderated by Ms Niyati Jigyasu, Coordinator- NSC-HTV, with Ms Aditi Rai, EPWG North Zone Representative, as session Rapporteur. The confluence concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Ms Harsimran Kaur.



Session 4 - Role of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Heritage Economics of Historic Towns 17 July 2021



With a welcome address and insightful inputs by Prof Sanghamitra Basu, Steering Committee advisory member, ICOMOS India Scientific Council, the session discussed the fine line between experiential tourism and the commodification of culture. It tried to identify ways to harness the power of tourism to achieve sustainable development goals in which ICH plays a pivotal role. Case studies showcasing good practices that can support the protection of culture and well-being of the local community were deliberated by experts like Dr Amareswar Galla, Ms Kizzy Tahnin from Bangladesh, Dr Debanjan Chakrabarti, Director British Council East and North East, Dr Priyatej Murthy Kotipalli and Mr Nishant Upadhyay. Dr Galla gave his inputs on the value of heritage and discussed tourism as the backbone of cultural and heritage economics. Ms Kizzy Tahnin highlighted the ICH capacity building activities by UNESCO Dhaka Office in the last few years.

Dr Debanjan Chakrabarti through his case study, “Mapping the Creative Economy around Durga Puja 2019” talked about innovative research that looks at 10 creative industries that drive Durga Puja. The economics of intangible aspects of heritage and the lens to interpret the values were elaborated by Dr Priyatej Murthy Kotipalli. Dr Purnima Chauhan discussed the ICH sites identified in the heritage smart mountain State of Himachal Pradesh and policy initiative. Mr Nishant Upadhyay’s experience working with the Department of Cultural Affairs, Government of Kerala, UNESCO leading the post-disaster needs assessment (PDNA) of the cultural heritage sector was the concluding presentation.

The approach towards heritage economics, global dialogue, local case studies and first-hand experiences left the audience with a pool of thoughts to ponder upon. The session was moderated by Ms Ishita Shah while Ms Nigar Shaikh, EPWG West Zone Representative was appointed as the rapporteur for the session.

Session 5 - Ground Realities and Reflections 31 July 2021

As a culmination of the e-symposium, this session included presentations and panel discussion on the reflections and ground realities of ICH in relation to historic towns as gleaned from the series. Intangible Cultural Heritage being a growing field within the cultural heritage spectrum, the panel discussion provided a platform for experts and emerging professionals together to discuss the past and future of ICH as the e-symposium's takeaway. Different cities, different approaches need to be acknowledged to harness communities by understanding the challenges, way to achieve SDGs, use of tools & strategies, and fiscal sustenance of ICH. Emerging professionals and their 21st century approaches are required to create awareness about ICH through innovative methods and techniques.

The session was moderated by the EPWG National Representative Ms Saranya Dharshini and Ms Zarna Shah was appointed as the session rapporteur. The session was inaugurated by the ICOMOS India President Dr Navin Piplani reflecting on the Role of ICOMOS India in ICH – Regional and Global perspectives.

This was followed by comprehensive presentation of the Conceptualization of the e-Symposium by the e-symposium convener Ms Niyati Jigyasu sharing that we had representation from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka as well as additional perspective from Italy and the UK. She reflected that the gender demographics were well-balanced in participation and representation with 20 women and 14 men in the last four sessions.

Presentations by emerging professionals focused on emerging topics in ICH. Character Appraisal for Hill Stations in South Asia was a new area Dr Monalisa Bhardwaj shared case studies from Shimla and Mussoorie in the context of a methodology for Urban Heritage Conservation. Ms Sonali Jaiswal's presentation on the Values and Reality of ICH in Banaras delved into the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills through the instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces they are associated with.



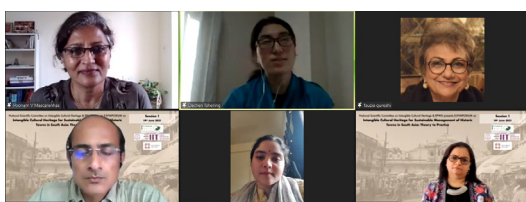
A case of Chitara Community and Mata ni Pachedi Art was presented by Ms Jyoti Shukla based on the study of the 300-year old kalamkari textile art practiced by the Chitara Community families in Ahmedabad.

The Reflections and Ground Realities of ICH was presented by Ms Saranya Dharshini appreciating the previous sessions for providing the knowledge and insight, to understand the important roles of community in ICH. Her presentation summarized the major takeaways and reflections from the case studies, including significant engagement and challenges in South Asia for advancing theory to practice in ICH.

The panel discussion included experts and emerging professionals associated with South Asia and the discussion was moderated by Ms Saranya Dharshini. The 2-hour long discussion included Mr Dennis Rodwell, Dr Sharif Shams Imon, Dr Neel Kamal Chapagain, Ms Ananya Bhattacharya, Mr Gabriel Caballero, and emerging professionals from India Ms Hannah John, Mr Sukrit Sen, Ms Priyanka Singh, Ms Anshika Jain, and Ms Ritika Khana. The concluding statement by the ICICH President Mr Munish Pandit congratulated the efforts and elaborated on the need for collaborations in the global context as an extension of this symposium.

The way forward was presented by the National Scientific Committee Coordinator Dr Mrinalini Atrey wherein she shared with participants that all the inputs and presentations from the experts would form a part of the publication in collaboration with Center for Heritage Management, Ahmedabad University. She also shared that the way forward from the e-Symposium deliberations would include bringing out a Statement from South Asia: A kind of Pre- Policy Guidance document from South Asia with respect to tourism at Historic towns, safeguarding creative economy, to lay down a direction, methodology/ methodologies for younger generations to study ICH in Historic Towns in South Asia, how to contextualise the tools already there in local perspectives, and perspectives on Intangible heritage from South Asia so as to decolonise the argument.

The organising team included: Dr Mrinalini Atrey, Ms Saranya Dharshini, Ms Meenal Singh, Mr Sukrit Sen, Ms Harsimran Kaur (IIT-BHU) with technical support being provided by Ms Zarna Shah, Ms Anshika Jain, Ms Kritika Mohan, Ms Lakshmi R, Ms Aditi Rai, Ms Nigar Shaikh, Ms Sukanya Sharma, Ms Priyanka Singh, Ms Ritika Khanna, Ms Varsha S and Ms Lipika Khanna.



NSC HTV AND EPWG NORTH ZONE

Webinar on Local Area Plans (LAP): Why, What and How? 30 July 2021

On Zoom Platform and Facebook live

No of participants : 120, Webinar speakers : 4

NSC-HTV & EPWG

CONCEPT OF LOCAL AREA PLANNING

A Local Area Plan (LAP) sets out a strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of a specific area within a local authority and for a timescale as specified by the authority.

MPD -2021 envisages an integrated 4 tier system of spatial plans: Master plan, Zonal development plan, Local area plans and Layout plans. The ward plan for a legally defined electoral ward is thus a third tier disaggregation of MPD-21. It is to be prepared through the participatory process. To provide a mapped framework of 272 wards of the MCD. Each ward has an average population of 50,000 and is represented by an elected councillor.

Master plan → Zonal development plan → Local area plans → Layout plans

Participatory approach, Bottom-up Approach, Collaborative Approach, Local resource centred approach

Master Plan of Delhi 2041
Some thoughts on inclusive planning Practices in Delhi
A G Krishna Menon

Presentation slide by Prof AGK Menon at the LAP Webinar.

On the public invite for feedback/ suggestion/ objection for the Draft Master Plan Delhi 2041 from the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), National Scientific Committee on Historic Towns and Villages (HTV) with critical support from EPWG prepared a review document that was submitted to the DDA under ICOMOS India. The aim of the exercise was to put forth comments and suggestions to enable efficient retention, protection, management, and sustainability of the intrinsic & diverse heritage assets in the city of Delhi.

The NSC HTV coordinated the activity with significant support from EPWG North Zone. The discussions held as part of the above brought forward the critical observation on the exclusion of Local Area Plans (or Layout Plans, as in case of MPD 2001) from the Master Plan document 204. This could likely pose issues on its legibility and understanding for the citizens, eventually leading to

Case Study - **Site Specific Byelaws**

Master Plan of Delhi 2041
Role of Local Area Plans in protecting Heritage Sites & Precincts
Annabel Lopez

Presentation slide by Ms Annabel Lopez at the LAP Webinar.

an inefficient development process. Subsequent discussions with experts from the field of architecture and planning led to organization of the webinar on understanding the Need for Local area plans, titled Local Area Plans: Why, What and How? This webinar was a very insightful session with participation from renowned experts who have worked in this field especially in the context of Delhi.

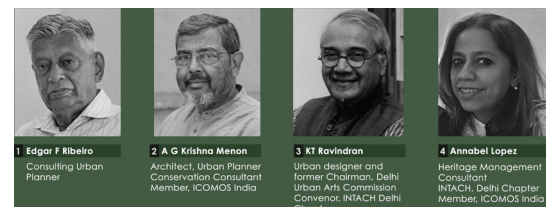
Prof Ribeiro stressed on the significance of the Local Area Plan to ground the perspectives of Master Plan Delhi and translate it into a roadmap for grass-root development.

With examples, while bringing forth the landscape of conflict at the citizen-government interface, Prof AGK Menon stressed on the need to change our process and flow of planning, where perhaps in some manner the Local Area Plans precede and inform the Masterplans/ Zonal plans to simplify and resolve the issues of infrastructure services and built environment including heritage. It has to be supported and facilitated with the relevant institutional and regulatory frameworks.

Ar Annabel Lopez's example of the cases of Tughlaqabad and Shahjahanabad presented the practical and on-ground issues of the conflict between existing and proposed development in such historically and culturally rich areas.

Prof KT Ravindra discussed the conflict that has happened in translation of planning activities that are expected to be participatory and democratic in line with the principles of the Constitution. articulated the structural flaws in the mechanism of the delivery of services in Delhi, and stated that to avoid the inefficiencies and fallback of the previous master plans it is important to revisit and resolve these flaws.

The presentations were followed by questions and answers. The session was moderated by Prof Sanghamitra Basu. Ms Aditi Rai, co-coordinator of NSC HTV, introduced the event and invited the participants, while Mr Gaurav Thapak was appointed to be the rapporteur for the session. Ms Niyati Jigyasu, coordinator; NSC HTV summarised the discussions. The session was attended by a total of 120 participants on the Zoom platform and a significant number watched the live stream on the official ICOMOS India facebook channel.



Expert Panel at the LAP Webinar: Prof Edgar F Ribeiro, Prof A G Krishna Menon, Prof KT Ravindra, Ms Annabel Lopez

NSC HTV, NORTH ZONE AND EPWG NORTH ZONE

Review document on Master Plan for Delhi 2041 (MPD-2041) 23 August 2021

Submitted to Delhi Development Authority

NSC-HTV, NZ & EPWG NZ

On the public invite for feedback/suggestion/objection for the Draft Master Plan Delhi 2041 from the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), National Scientific Committee of Historic Towns and Villages (HTV) with critical support from EPWG prepared a review document that was submitted to the DDA under ICOMOS India. The aim of the exercise was to submit comments & suggestions concerning the Master Plan for Delhi (MPD-2041) to enable efficient retention, protection, management, and sustainability of the intrinsic & diverse heritage assets in the city of Delhi. The working group consisted of members from architecture, planning and legal backgrounds. The team with Ms Niyati Jigyasu, coordinator of NSC HTV as the focal point included Prof Sanghamitra Basu, Ms Smita Makhija, Mr Arjun Mukherji, Ms Vertika Sharma, Ms Aditi Rai and Mr Gaurav Thapak. The process included exhaustive discussions within the working group, invitation to ICOMOS India members for their feedback through google forms. All the suggestions and comments were discussed and put together in the 8-page document. The document was meticulously prepared by Ms Aditi Rai and Mr Gaurav Thapak.

While appreciating some of the relevant points, the 8-page document made key suggestions for a bottom-up approach for planning the city of Delhi and inclusion of Local Area Plans (LAPs) as significant effective legal tools for planning and translating the vision mentioned in MPD-2041 to the grassroots level. The document made specific Observations & Suggestions on the Section 03 of MPD-2041 on Heritage, Culture & Public Spaces.

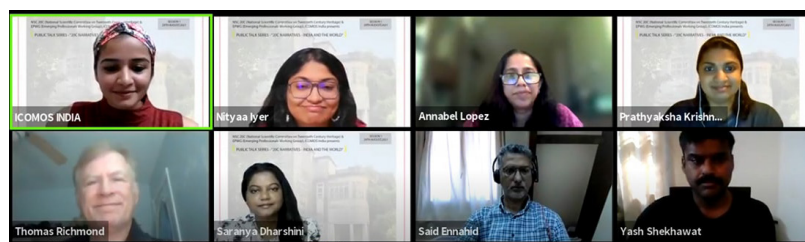
It discussed the need for looking at various typologies within historic settlement, inclusion of intangible cultural heritage as identified in the city, development of Heritage Information Management, among other suggestions. Issues and suggestions for Incentives, to ensure conservation and sensitive use/reuse of Heritage Assets have also been put forth. The report is completed with specific comments on the two Heritage Zones as identified in MPD-2041 and

the need for reinstating of four other heritage zones that were part of the Master Plan 2021. Furthermore, it adds that an exercise on identification and delineation of other potential heritage zones including Historic Urban Villages in Delhi should be carried out by authority in a stipulated time frame.

The working group included: Ms Niyati Jigyasu as the focal point, Prof Sanghamitra Basu, Ms Smita Makhija, Ms Vertika Sharma, Mr Arjun Mukherji, Ms Aditi Rai and Mr Gaurav Thapak.

NSC 20C AND EPWG

20C Narratives– India & the World



NSC-20C & EPWG

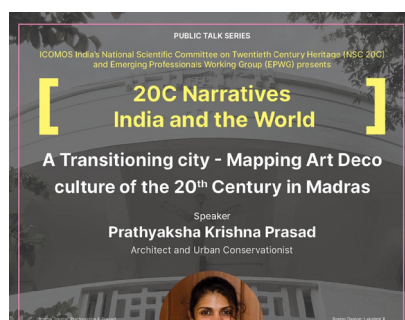
The inheritance of 20th century architecture is rich and diverse, reflecting the prevalent socio-cultural philosophies and technological advancements of that time. The architecture thus born initiated a break from traditional architectural forms, design, and use of materials encouraging a new form of artistic expression through the innovative vision for spatial arrangement, structural innovations, and new materials. Globally, the 20th century heritage has been influenced by factors like industrialization, mass production, world war, structural innovations, and advancements in science and technology among others. The series of talks intends to initiate the discussion and learning of the 20th century narratives in India and the world.

Public Talk 1

29 August 2021 – A Transitioning City – Mapping Art Deco Culture of the 20th C. in Madras by Ms Prathyaksha Krishnav Prasad, Architect & Urban Conservationist.

Public Talk 2

24 September 2021 - Pierre Jeanneret– The Craftsman Architect by Dr Sangeeta Bagga, Urban Designer & Principal, Chandigarh College of Architecture.



Art Deco Madras is a research project, with a sole purpose of creating awareness about its importance in the history and evolution of Madras aka Chennai from a colonial city into a modern metropolis. The vernacularity and the blend of modern technologies with traditional techniques and elements is often noticed while looking closely at various aspects of Art Deco culture in the city. The talk intends to showcase the documentation efforts under the project.

29 August 2021 | Sunday | 16:00 - 17:30 IST



Pierre Jeanneret, the Swiss born architect and partner to Le Corbusier's Parisian practice was a modest, humane individual without whom Le Corbusier's creations at Chandigarh would not have been possible. With an eye for detail, Pierre was a hands-on architect who enjoyed experimenting with building materials, creating utility items including furniture, lampshades and even boats in his leisure hours. The popular Chandigarh Style of Architecture is credited to Pierre. The talk is about Pierre Jeanneret, his thoughts and his creations.

24 September 2021 | Friday | 17:30-18:30 IST

News From Working Groups

EMERGING PROFESSIONALS WORKING GROUP (EPWG)

Emerging Professional Mentorship Program (EPMP)

Implementation - Open House

Further to the review process, 11 mentors and 17 mentees were finalised. However one pair had to discontinue due to health reasons. There was an overwhelming number of Mentees than Mentors, however we look forward to the participation of unassigned mentees in the next cycle where they would be given preference over other first-time applicants. As mentioned by Ms Saranya Dharshini during the launch, the program is conceived to evolve; and next year the programme may adopt a different format compared to this year to keep adapting with the changing times and we look forward to more participation from the overall membership, to come forward and mentor the burgeoning membership of emerging professionals.

The EPMP Review Team and Implementation team, comprising the EPWG Zonal Representatives, had organised two separate interactive sessions for mentors and mentees on 3rd July 2021 and an Open House for all participants to interact and discuss their expectations and potential outcomes from the EPMP.



The meeting was called to order by the EPWG National Representative Ms Saranya Dharshini. Dr Navin Piplani, President ICOMOS India, addressed the mentors' group by mentioning this to be one of the largest and newest mentorship programs spearheaded by ICOMOS India Emerging Professional members. He also stated that it is inspiring and stimulating to see the younger members actually take the lead in developing and delivering the EPMP. He then discussed five points:

1. He said how he, as a leader of the institution, supports this initiative that brings our emerging professionals together towards an understanding and sharing of what we do as professionals.
2. With it being the first of its kind large scale programme within ICOMOS India, he said there are bound to be gaps and shortcomings. The mentors are not only guiding the mentees, but will also be part of shaping up the programme by working with the EPs.
3. He also suggested to consider if the proposed projects can be transformative, and see if they can fit into the larger ICOMOS International framework.
4. As the program is conceived to evolve, he welcomes suggestions throughout the programme which can be sent to the EPWG National or Regional Representatives.

5. He concluded by saying that the quicker we break the barriers of 'one gaining' and 'one sharing' knowledge, and rather look at it as a collective/ mutual effort in developing a loving and caring bond traversing through the vehicle of knowledge.

EPMP Programme Details

Ms Saranya Dharshini, EPWG National Representative, mentioned that the mentorship programme is all about communication. She emphasised on the point of this program being one of the largest and will lay the basis/ set an example for further EPMP within the ICOMOS International framework. She highlighted the areas of proposals, discussed the program format to be virtual considering the Covid 19 pandemic. She also suggested that the mentor and mentees discuss and finalise a mutually convenient time for each other. She reflected that the information pack shared on email contains the sample format for completion report, however it is left to the discretion of the participants to plan their project outcome apart from the report, maybe in the form of videos/ webinars/ photo series and this can be mutually discussed and worked upon. The detailed schedule was discussed with 30 September 2021 as the completion date of the programme. This would provide an opportunity to present the outcome at the ICOMOS India's NSC Conclave that would take place in October 2021.

The Open House was opened by the President and the National Representative, EPWG and was conducted by the EPWG Regional Representatives Ms Lakshmi R, Mr Sukrit Sen, Ms Aditi Rai, and Ms Kritika Mohan who facilitated the discussions amongst their assigned mentorship teams.

Participants included: Dr Navin Piplani (President ICOMOS India), Dr Arun Menon (NSC Counselor), Ms Saranya Dharshini (EPWG National Representative), Ms Lakshmi R (South Zone EPWG Rep), Ms Niyati Jigyasu, Dr Rohit Jigyasu, Dr Rima Hooja (Vice President ICOMOS India), Mr Bikramjit Chakraborty, Prof Sanghamitra Basu, Mr Sankar Krishna Das (North East Zone Rep), Mr Venugopal B, Mr SV Suryanarayana Murthy Gullapalli (South Zone Rep), Ms Bhawna Dandona, Dr Choodamani Nandagopal.

Following are the Mentor-Mentee Pairs:

Mentor: Dr Choodamani Nandagopal
Mentee: Ms Vaibhavi Dhote

Mentor: Dr Venugopal B
Mentee: Ms Nanki Kaur

Mentor: Dr Sankar Krishna Das
Mentees: Ms Khushi Shah and Ms Rimita Bhowal

Mentor: Ms Niyati Jigyasu
Mentee: Ms Sneha Kishnadwala

Mentor: Mr SV Suryanarayana Murthy Gullapalli
Mentees: Ms Ashka Vyas, Chenelle Fatima Rodrigues, Meenal Singh and Gaurav Mishra

Mentor: Ms Smita Datta Makhija
Mentee: Priya Gosain and Esha Nitin Rane

Mentor: Rohit Jigyasu
Mentee: Nupur Bhatnagar

Mentor: Prof Sanghamitra Basu
Mentees: Ms Sowmya Poosapadi SR and Ms Neelima Yadav

Mentor: Dr Rima Hooja
Mentee: Apoorva R Iyengar

Mentor: Bikramjit Chakraborty
Mentee: Nitya Khendry

Asia Pacific (AP) Regional Meeting Discussion

Updates on the attended session 25 July 2021 @ 1400 hrs Beijing Time

Hosted by ICOMOS Thailand

This was the first meeting with the Regional Group for both the Secretary General Ms Shalini Dasgupta and EPWG National representative Ms Saranya Dharshini.

Of the 20 National committees, the regional representatives (the president, a regional officer and emerging professional, maximum three) of 16 have been finalised: Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea ROK, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore and Sri Lanka.

The activities of the Emerging Professional Working Group (EPWG) were presented by Stacy Vallis (International Board EP/ New Zealand). Kai Weise (Nepal) commented that it is important to have projects and activities to allow for the mentorship to take place. Since EP mentorship has been identified as an important topic in the survey, the APA regional network will need to address this issue more in detail. Ms Saranya Dharshini (India EP) presented the ongoing EP mentorship programme that is going on in India. This could be an example to consider when discussing regional involvement.

Various themes were presented in an online



google sheet form through the chat box as activities for members (National Committees) to sign-up for. There were many who signed up for the various themes: Disaster Risk Management, Heritage Management, EP mentoring, Administration, Community, Interpretation, Material, World Heritage, Buy-in from government, etc.

ICOMOS India signed up for EP Mentorship, Community Consultation, Training/ Education, Defining the Asia-Pacific Flavor of Heritage, Heritage Management, SDGs and is the Lead for Disaster Risk Management.

Gabriel Caballero (Philippines) as the focal person for the SDGWG, volunteered to lead the discussion on SDGs including the creation of Task Team 08 on Heritage & Gender Equality in collaboration with the Rights-Based Approach Working Group. ICOMOS India shared interest to collaborate with the Task Team represented by Ms Shalini Dasgupta and Saranya Dharshini. Other collaborating national committees are ICOMOS Spain and Argentina.

Summary of the outcome of the meeting:

1. To finalize a network email list with missing NCs and potential individual members.
2. To review collaboration with the ICOMOS Pasifika Committee.
3. To prepare the final outcome of the survey with missing contributions.
4. There is no objection in working towards establishing an AP Regional Bureau.
5. To circulate the forms, to sign up for involvement in activities, including the lead.
6. Next meeting is on 5th September 2021 (14:00 Beijing Time)

Attendees: Hatthaya Siriphatthanakun, Peter Phillips, Nupur Prothi, Stacy Vallis, Gabriel Caballero, Helen Lardner, Lucy Irwin, Yan Haiming, Wang Jue, Shalini Dasgupta, Saranya Dharshini, Mahnaz Ashrafi, Mehrdad Hejazi, Yasuyoshi Okad, Yumi Akieda, Aya Miyazaki, Tiong Kian Boon, Ohnmar Myo, Kai Weise, Anie Joshi Ian Bowman, Dexell Aita, Fauzia Qureshi, Ms. Fauzia Qureshi, Yeo Kang Shua, Gamini Wijesuriya, Sagara Jayasinghe, Alex Yen.

5 September 2021 @ 1400 hrs Beijing Time

Hosted by ICOMOS Thailand



This meeting focussed on the deliberations and organisation of the Asia-Pacific Regional bureau. The International Vice President is responsible for the region. The Regional Bureau would assist the VP in working on regional networking and activities. In addition to the VP as chair, the Regional Bureau would consist of three NC Presidents or their representatives with a fourth member representing the individual members and/or the emerging professionals (EP). The details of the proposal have been presented by Peter Phillips, which also includes the following steps to get the initial provisional bureau established. This would be a provisional bureau to get things started for a year.

Emerging Professionals Stacy Vallis and Saranya Dharshini along with SDGWG focal point Gabriel Caballero shared salient points from the recent Regional EPWG Meeting. They strongly voiced the need for EP representation in the Regional Bureau and insisted on knowledge-sharing with the Regional group for good practices and understanding guilds in the conservation profession.

Summary of the outcome of the meeting:

1. Networking: To check on Indonesia National Committee (Kian Boon) and collaboration with the ICOMOS Pasifika Committee (Helen). To check with existing and new international members and potential NCs, particularly look into the status of Cambodia. To check the status of Central Asia, other than Kazakhstan, and get individual members to participate (Ona).
2. Establishment of AP Regional Bureau: To finalize nominations for the AP Regional Bureau by 27 September with 3 NC presidents or representatives and one member representing individual members or EPs.

3. Establishment of Regional Working Groups: As soon as a lead country is decided, the respective working group can start organising itself among those who have registered online.
4. Next meeting will be organized in the second half of November 2021.
5. Present status of the Regional sign-up sheets for the various working groups was presented. ICOMOS India was announced as the lead on Disaster Preparedness with 7 countries.

Attendees: Alim Feyzulayev, Anie Joshi, Aya Miyazaki, Dexell Aita, Elaheh Golzari, Fahmida Nusrat Fauzia Qureshi, Gabriel Caballero, H.E. Phann Nady, Hatthaya Siriphatthanakun, Helen Lardner, Ian Bowman, Ju Yun Jung, Kai Weise, Kate Lim, Mahnaz Ashrafi, Maria Cristina Paterno, Mehrdad Hejazi, Mr. Navin Piplani, Ms. Nupur Prothi, Ohnmar Myo, Ona Vileikis, Peter Phillips, Saima Gulzar, Saranya Dharshini, Shalini Dasgupta, Sharif Shams Imon, Stacy Vallis, Tan Chin Ling, Tiong Kian Boon, Urtnasan Norov, Wang Jue, Yan Haiming, Yasuyoshi Okada, Wajahat Ali, Norman Kuohua Wang, Chan To.

EPWG General Meeting

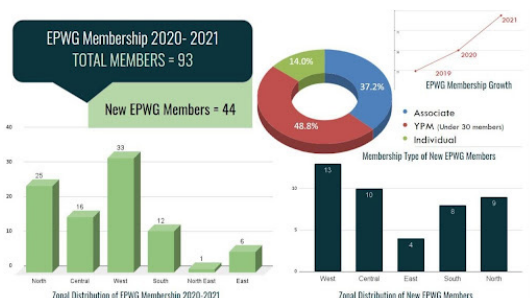
28 August 2021

On Zoom Platform

No. Of Participants - 14

The meeting included an introduction to EPWG and its activities. The ICOMOS 2020 report statistics show that, ICOMOS India is one of the National Committees that has gained the maximum members in the year 2020 and has the greatest percentage of members under the age of 30. This is reflected in the substantial growth of the ICOMOS India Emerging Professionals Working Group (EPWG) since its inception in 2019 to 2021.

The EPWG membership has doubled-up within the last one year with a significant rise. As they say, let's be the change that we want to see in the world and within our Committee. The voices of our Emerging Professionals are crucial to this

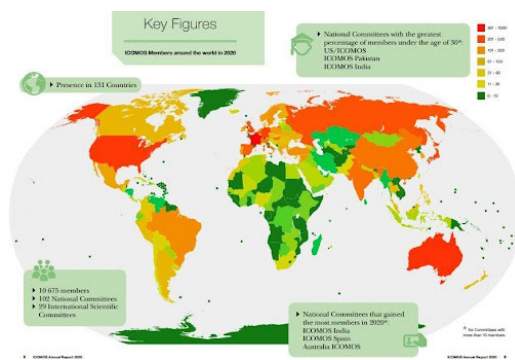


2020 - 2021 EPWG EVENTS
ICOMOS INDIA



COLLABORATORS

- NSC ICH
- NSC HTV
- NSC 20C
- WH WG
- NSC SBH
- NSC ARSAH
- ALL REGIONAL ZONES



Source: International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) Annual Report 2020.

endeavour in cultural heritage. [Click here to check out the activities carried out by our EPWG.](#) The introduction reflected on the emergence of EPWG and its invaluable position within ICOMOS India.

In the past 9 months, our EPWG has actively participated in 11 initiatives at ICOMOS India and ICOMOS International. The activities carried out by EPWG of ICOMOS India in 2021 were very well received at the EPWG International Annual Open Session where our group presented on behalf of the Regional Asia-Pacific Group. Deliberations were carried out during the meeting for EPWG led initiatives projects such as the Emerging Professionals Mentorship and the Ghats of Kolkata initiative.

Three teams within the group had participated in the Research Seed Grant Proposal as collaborators and presented their initiatives to the Steering Committee of the ICOMOS India Scientific Council. This was appreciated by the members to support EPWG's scientific work for ICOMOS India which is reflective of the GA2020 Resolutions, "Requests National and International Scientific Committees to proactively support intergenerational, multicultural scientific dialogue within ICOMOS by calling on National and International Scientific Committees to develop projects in collaboration with the EPWG to engage emerging professionals and expert members in exploring the evolving concepts and issues of heritage".

Other aspects covered in the meeting are as follows:

- Update on the Hello EP, About EPWG & Past Activities
- Presentation on Youth Forum at World Heritage Convention by Mr Sukrit Sen
- Presentation on Understanding Local Plans by Ms Aditi Rai
- Discussion on Digital Heritage, Heritage Alerts, Future Activities, NSC-WG collaborations.

Ghats of Kolkata

17 September 2021

On Zoom Platform

Ghats of Kolkata is an initiative by the EPWG East Zone in association with ICOMOS East Zone and the Water Heritage Working Group alongside The Living Waters Museum. The proposal has been accepted in principle by the ExCom and aims to involve college students to document the Ghats of Kolkata and finally prepare a guidance document that looks at the documentation of water heritage in particular. Within ICOMOS India, the Water Heritage Working Group, NSC RP and East Zone are the collaborators.

The team members met for their second meeting on 17 September 2021, to discuss the progress and resuming work on site post the second wave of the pandemic. Members of NSC RP also joined to discuss avenues of collaboration. The EP members of the east zone shared a detailed table of all the ghats, its values and the zonal division of the river in the studied area. Keeping in mind that capacity building is one of the focus areas of the project, apart from the documentation itself, the field team was suggested to first describe a methodology for this project. It was also suggested to make a note of existing criteria taken into consideration by different institutions for documentation. Members of NSC RP will do so too and look at existing literature on risk mapping. The collected data will then be discussed with the team in the next sitting to have a more holistic approach to arriving at the final criteria, before the sessions with the volunteers start and work on site begins.



Prospective zonal division of the river along the studied area.
Photo credits: Mr Sukrit Sen



PK Tagore Ghats, one of the studied Ghats
Photo credits: Mr Sukrit Sen

Members' Corner

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

CEPT UNIVERSITY, AHMEDABAD

FA: MCR Program at CEPT Commended by World Heritage Education.

The Master's in Conservation and Regeneration (MCR) program at Faculty of Architecture (FA), CEPT University has been recognised as one of the 'Commended Cases' and presented as a part of the side event of the 44th event of the World Heritage Committee on 17 July 2021. The MCR responded to the Global Call for Innovative Case Studies in Heritage Education by World Heritage Institute for Training and Research - Asia Pacific (WHITRAP), under the auspices of UNESCO.

MCR is a two year special education program in theory and practice of building conservation and conservation led urban regeneration. The program situates itself in the context of the World Heritage Site of Historic City of Ahmedabad and engages with the historic built environments, urban histories and theories, contextual design approaches and community engagement to explore relationship between conservation practice and urban regeneration. The core of this program is informed by ethics of equity and sustainability.

World Heritage Education (WHE) is not only an important way to connect people to world heritage sites, but also a key to a creative solution for sustainable development of the heritage sites. The Global Innovation Cases of World Heritage Education has been initiated with the hope to have a fine collection of forward-looking exemplar heritage education cases. Nearly 100 WHE innovation cases were collected from five continents of the world within a month. With reference to future development and model innovation as a global model, the expert panel selected 11 outstanding cases and 12 recommended cases, out of which one was the MCR Program at CEPT.



The 'Studio' Space. The Program is housed in a prominent 20th Century Heritage building designed by the 2018 Pritzker Laureate, Architect BV Doshi. Conservation and maintenance processes of the building itself act as a site for education for the program's participants. Photo credits: Sarvesh Alshi, February 2020.

Honorary mention of research paper by CHC, CEPT within "Our World Heritage (OWH) Diversities and Genders Group"

Center for Heritage Conservation (CHC) was awarded an Honorary Mention for their contribution towards the "Call for Participation: Counter Stories", within Our World Heritage (OWH) Diversities and Genders Group. The essay titled, "Counter Stories: A case of Conservation Site Schools in Ahmedabad", is authored by Dr Jigna Desai, Ms Nigar Shaikh, and Mr Zeus Pithawalla. The essay discusses the narrative of the World Heritage City, the criteria within which the city is inscribed, and in turn the negligence towards presenting the city's uncomfortable histories. The essay presents the opportunity of using Conservation Site Schools in Ahmedabad to initiate processes of repair, restoration, and upgradation of the site while foregrounding voices of the local community that share narratives of marginalised histories excluded from world heritage. These "counter spaces" within the site schools, like that in Tankshal ni Pol Masjid, give a voice to the marginalised histories of communal violence, segregation, and women's access to praying spaces. [Click here to read the essay](https://www.ourworldheritage.org/counterstories-results)



GENERAL MEMBERS

MS SARANYA DHARSHINI

Publication, “The Heritage of the Olympic Games- Future Outlook, World Heritage List and Way Forward” in “The Modern Heritage of the Olympic Games”

Ms Saranya Dharshini, co-authored the article, 'The Heritage of the Olympic Games– Future Outlook, World Heritage List and Way Forward' with a fellow Emerging Professional from ICOMOS Argentina - Virginia Rush, in the publication, 'The Modern Heritage of the Olympic Games'. As an Emerging Professional from ICOMOS India she was selected to attend the conference in Munich, 2019. The publication was released in July 2021.

Ms Dharshini says, “The spirit and heritage of the Olympic Games have always fascinated me even though India has never hosted one but has participated in many. The conference hosted by ICOMOS Germany came at a time when the importance of 20th century architecture is finding its foothold in many countries and protection of this type of cultural property has become the need of the hour. Since never before has the time duration between the creation and listing of a heritage property has been so short but extremely necessary. Moreover, if there is an utmost need for engaging Emerging Professionals in a topic which is closely related to heritage, youth and the future, it would be this.”

“At the crux of the conference deliberation, it can be postulated that the Olympic sites and the host cities would benefit from a World Heritage Listing, in both sports and tourism aspects and create a repository of Olympic stadium know-hows which would help identify solutions for common issues and encourage long term sustenance of the historic sports sites. Considering that the Olympic Games has its origin rooted in the past and has been resurrected in relevance to the present time, and with the conclusion of the Japan Olympics recently, I hope the modern heritage of the Olympic Games receives its due recognition and protection for the future.”



View of the Munich Olympic Stadium from the tower. Photo Credits: Saranya Dharshini

MS PRIYANKA PANJWANI

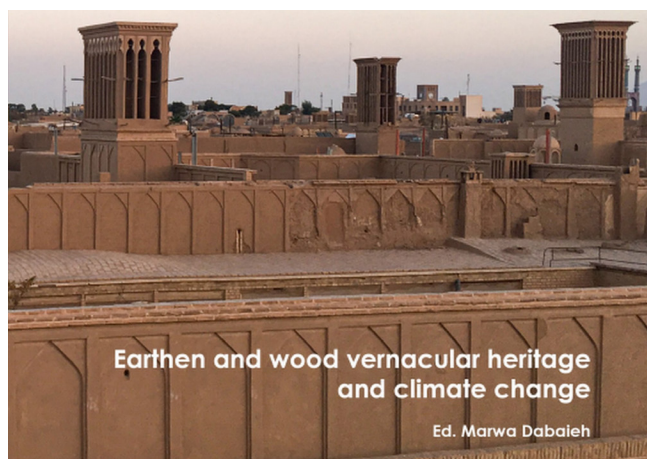
33 International Conference on “Earthen and Wood Vernacular Heritage and Climate Change”



Planning for Climate Change in Indigenous Coastal Settlements. Photo credits: Priyanka Panjwani

ICOMOS International Scientific Committees on Vernacular Architecture, Earthen Architectural Heritage, Wood Architecture Heritage and Energy, Sustainability and Climate change (ISCES+CC) jointly organised the international conference on “Earthen and Wood Vernacular Heritage and Climate Change” under the patronage of ICOMOS Sweden, between 28-30 August 2021. Ms Priyanka Panjwani, an Associate member of ISCES +CC and Co-ordinator of ICOMOS India NSC Risk Preparedness, submitted and presented a research paper under the theme of “Vulnerability of Vernacular Buildings to Climate Change”.

Titled “Planning for Climate Change in Indigenous Coastal Settlements”, her paper assessed the built environment of a native coastal community, namely Chendani Koliwada in Thane. Ms Priyanka highlighted the risks and adaptability of the vernacular architecture, and detailed priority actions while preparing a holistic plan for climate change in the historic coastal settlements. The conference proceedings are available to read on the Publications page of Malmö University, Sweden (Faculty of Culture and Society, Department of Urban Studies).



Earthen and wood vernacular heritage
and climate change

Ed. Marwa Dabaieh

MS PRIYANKA PANJWANI

Heritage Places and Memory: Our World Heritage

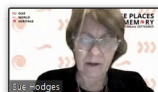


The “Our World Heritage” (OWH) programme aims to raise general awareness about the opportunities and threats that natural and cultural World Heritage Sites encounter in the 21st century, precipitated by, among others, increasing development pressures, industrial and mining operations, climate change, unsustainable tourism and conflicts. For this purpose, the OWH programme has conducted several debates under different themes, in the form of 2021 webinars. The theme for September 2021 was “Heritage Places and Memory”. Memories associated with a heritage site can be plural and, sometimes, dissonant.

In Session 3 of the series, “Innovative Models for Inclusive Interpretation of Cultural Heritage Sites”, a case study on “Cellular Jail, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India” submitted by Ms Priyanka Panjwani was selected and discussed in the webinar, after a call for case studies was conducted in August 2021 (under the close co-operation with the Preparatory Office for International Centre for the Interpretation and Presentation of World Heritage Sites under the auspices of UNESCO (WHIPIC). [Click here to view the webinar](#)

Cellular Jail site Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India

Photographs: Priyanka Panjwani
Image credits: Priyanka Panjwani



Climate Heritage Narratives: Youth led Intergenerational Dialogues



United Nations Pre-COP 26 Climate Heritage Narratives: Youth-led Intergenerational Dialogues Climate Heritage Network #ALL4CLIMATE

Presentation on Sustainable Heritage Tourism by Priyanka Panjwani at PreCOP 26.

Each UN Climate Summit (COP) is preceded by a preparatory meeting held about a month before, called a Pre-COP, which offers an informal setting to discuss and exchange views on key political aspects of the COP agenda. The 2021 Pre-COP was held in Milan, Italy on 30 September– 2 October. It was preceded by Youth4Climate: Driving Ambition, an unprecedented opportunity for young people to put forward ideas on some of the most pressing climate issues.

Co-ordinated and mentored by Mr Andrew Potts, the Climate Heritage Network (CHN) worked with the Italian Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Tourism to develop a youth, culture and climate event at the Pre-COP designed to connect the youth movements of arts, culture and heritage organisations across the globe around the issue of climate change.

Ms Priyanka Panjwani, a member of ICOMOS India Emerging Professionals Working Group, was selected to be part of the CHN PreCOP26 Youth Event Task Force team and she volunteered for the same between May - July 2021. A three-day event was formulated and it consisted of online workshops under the themes of Traditional Knowledge and Skills, Sustainable Heritage Tourism and Transformative change.

As a speaker in the workshop on World Tourism Day (27 September 2021), Priyanka presented on the topic of “Exploring native areas in an urban context: Case of metropolitan Mumbai, India” - under the theme of “Sustainable Heritage Tourism” of the Climate Heritage Narratives.



United Nations Pre-COP 26 Climate Heritage Narratives: Youth-led Intergenerational Dialogues Climate Heritage Network #ALL4CLIMATE

BY DR SANJIB BORKAKOTI

Online Lecture on “Srimanta Sankaradeva, the Polymath from India” at Rutgers University, USA

Dr Sanjib Kumar Borkakoti, a scholar and author on Srimanta Sankaradeva as well as expert member of International Committee on Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICICH), delivered an online lecture on Srimanta Sankaradeva on 28 September 2021 to Rutgers University, New Jersey, USA. The title of his lecture was “Srimanta Sankaradeva, the Polymath from India.” It was organised by the South Asian Studies Program (SASP) at Rutgers University and was co-sponsored by the Naamghar Association of America (NAAM). Dr Julia Stephens, Interim Director of SASP welcomed Dr Borkakoti and the audience at the outset. Dr Sanjib Bhuyan, an Executive Committee member of SASP and a faculty member at Rutgers University gave a brief introduction about Dr Borkakoti.

Dr Borkakoti began his lecture with an idea about the social reform brought about by Srimanta Sankaradeva. He elaborated how the caste differences and class differences were done away with by the saint. He highlighted the educational activities, especially the works in the area of adult education and non-formal education. He spoke about the thrust given by the saint on education of women and those in the lowest echelon of the society. He drew a parallel between the saint and Lord Buddha in the sense that both gave up their royal statuses to come down to the level of the commoners. At the same time, he highlighted the work culture promoted by Srimanta Sankaradeva in his order. Dr Borkakoti mentioned the special status accorded to women by the saint in the order. He said that the saint gave a clarion call to educate women, which was a radical thing in medieval times. Dr Borkakoti termed Srimanta Sankaradeva as a pioneer feminist.

Dr Borkakoti talked about the *Thân* or *Satra* institution and its multifaceted features. He said that *Thân* or *Satra* is similar to *Kibbutz* and *Commune* in terms of the set up. He highlighted the work culture of this institution. He also discussed the special architecture of the *Kirtanghar*, the central component of *Thân* or *Satra*, as different from other Hindu temples. Photos of the *Kirtanghar* and the *Guru Asan* insides were shown in the presentation. How people sat together irrespective of caste or gender inside the *Kirtanghar* was highlighted in the lecture, with photographic evidence. Its eco-friendly nature was also explained. The cultural aspect of the *Kirtanghar* was discussed by Dr Borkakoti. He said that the *Kirtanghar* was used as a cultural centre. He talked about *Bhaona* and showed the beautiful *Aharya* used in it.

Dr Borkakoti also spoke about manuscript preparation and painting. He said that the special features of the manuscript writing taught by the saint has made the medieval manuscripts to last till now, with the glaze of the writings as bright as before. He

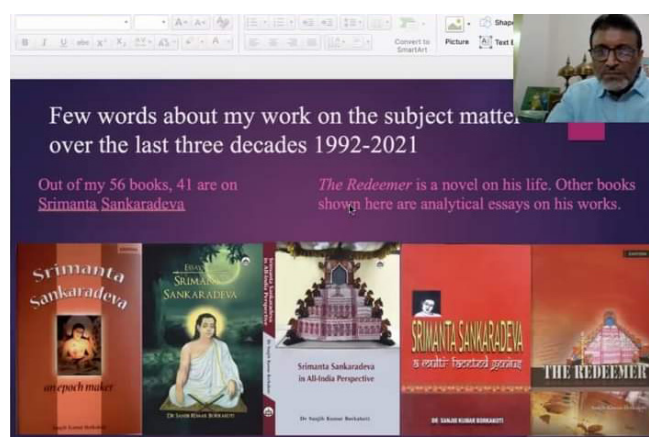
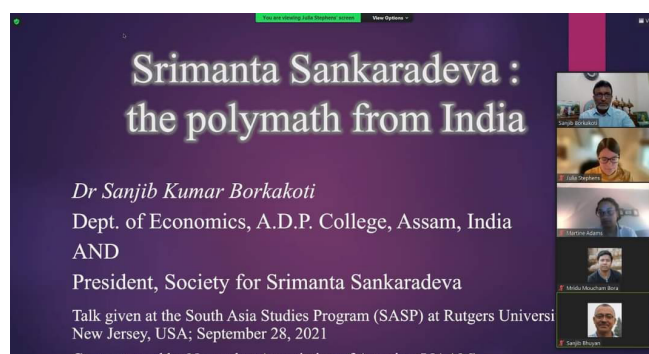
said that the saint evolved the art of manuscript preparation to a new height. The ink prepared by him was of very high quality, whose shine has lasted for centuries.

Dr Borkakoti also presented posture of *Sattriya* dance and described the 25 *Ragas* created by the great saint. The history of *Chihna Yatra* was mentioned in the lecture. He said that *Chihna Yatra* was the first play in all modern Indian languages and thus the saint was a pioneer playwright in the whole of India. About 10,000 people gathered to witness its enactment, which made the occasion a notable one.

Dr Borkakoti highlighted the fact that the impact of the saint litterateur has continued even five centuries later. The Assamese society is free of many social evils because of his influence. Women are given prominence in his order. The *Sattriya* dance and *Borgeet* created by him have acquired special status among cultural experts because of their classical characters. He explained the use of metaphors in the *Bhaona* performance.

SASP Interim-Director, Dr Stephens, anchored the programme and Dr Bhuyan offered vote of thanks. Dr Borkakoti’s talk generated a vigorous discussion on several topics that were covered in his talk, such as Srimanta Sankaradeva’s contribution to language, music, and plays as well as how the Assamese diaspora could follow his tenets while away from Assam. There were questions about the lifestyle of the followers of Srimanta Sankaradeva.

The attendees included several from India as well as many from the Assamese diaspora in America. Among the attendees, Dr Binoy Bordoloi, President of NAAM also attended the session. Pulitzer prize winner Ms Sanghamitra Kalita and Vice President of ICOMOS India Dr Rima Hooja were among those who participated in the discussion.



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ICOMOS India wishes you a very happy and prosperous New Year !

We look forward to your valued and continued support in the new year.

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

HAPPY READING 😊

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EDITORIAL TEAM

Shalini Dasgupta, Secretary
Jigna Desai, Institutional Representative
Lipika Khanna, Research Intern
Nupur Bhatnagar, EPWG
Sruthi Rao, EPWG
Purvasha Saxena, EPWG
Shriya Rajwade, EPWG

~

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ADDRESS

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

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ICOMOS
INDIA ™
Council on Monuments and Sites



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*