

ICOMOS INDIA

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2022

COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS & SITES



Perini Thandavam at Ramappa Temple;
UNESCO World Heritage Volunteer Campaign 2022; PC: Kakatiya Heritage Trust

From the Secretariat

The July-September quarter saw the 13th Executive Committee Members meeting (ExCom 13) being held on 23 July 2022 between 2:00-4:00 PM (IST). ExCom 13 Meeting took place through online mode on the Zoom platform, in presence of ExCom members and the Secretariat staff.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Open Access to CEPT Library for ICOMOS India Members

CEPT University, an institutional member of ICOMOS India, announced the open access of CEPT Library for all members of ICOMOS. Upon showing a valid and updated ICOMOS ID card, members can get CEPT Library membership for reference.

Stepping Down of NSC Vernacular Architecture Coordinator

Ar. Poorva Patil stepped down as the Coordinator of NSC Vernacular Architecture.

Start of Membership Process for the year 2023

The First Cycle of Membership for 2023 commenced from 15 September till 15 October. The cycle was open to New Registrations and Renewals.

Nomination of Voting Member of ISC Mural Painting

Mr. Sreekumar Menon was nominated as a voting member of the ISC Mural Painting.

ICOMOS INDIA MASTERPLAN 2022-23

As announced at the Annual General Meeting 2022, the Masterplan initiative proposed by Emerging Professionals Working Group (EPWG) prepared this collective of proposed events which center in and around the Azaadi ka Amrit Mahotsav themes to celebrate and acknowledge the development over the course of India's independence spanning 75 years. In collaborative spirit, the Masterplan currently has 8 ongoing projects curated by the Masterplan Core Committee, National Scientific Committees and Working Groups, which are in various stages of development. Masterplan Project Teams at ICOMOS India are expediting their efforts to launch activities and events for the upcoming year. Read more about the Masterplan and the active projects [here](#).

For any queries or expression of interests, please write to indiaat75.icomosindia@gmail.com with the subject 'India@75' and copy icomosindia@gmail.com or give a call on [011-40047876](tel:011-40047876).

As of this quarter, 2 heritage walks under the Heritage Walks@75 initiative have been organized, which are as follows:

The Nationalist Trail with Fun On Streets & Art Fervour

Under the Masterplan initiative of Heritage Walks@75, a walk was held on 24 September in Bethune College, Kolkata. This heritage walk was held in collaboration with Art Fervour and Fun On Streets. The report can be read [here](#).

Heritage Walk at Nubra Valley, Leh with Art Fervour

Another heritage walk was held in Nubra Valley, Ladakh under the initiative of Heritage Walks@75 on 24 September, in collaboration with Art Fervour. The report can be found [here](#).

EVENT NEWS

Monthly CultuRisk Tech Talks by NSC Risk Preparedness

CultuRisk Tech Talks is a monthly member-driven knowledge sharing initiative of NSC RP started from September 2021. For the month of July, CultuRisk Tech Talks #10 was organized with the speaker as Ar. Vanicka Arora, the link for which can be found on our YouTube channel. Read the report [here](#).

Online Panel Discussion: Stories of Struggle for Independence from Oudh & Around

Central Zone organized a panel discussion to commemorate the occasion of the 75th year of Independence of India on Zoom platform on 15 August. It explored the role of Oudh in the freedom movement and to discuss ways to safeguard the sites of historical significance. Read the report [here](#).

Seminar on Research Studies Leading to Knowledge and Wisdom for Sustainable Conservation of World Heritage Sites of India

NSC Theophilos, NSC ICH, NSC CL and North East Zone organized a seminar on the Zoom platform held on 24 August. The seminar delved into a discussion that focused on processing of discourse emerging from real world situations and actions and conservation policies. Read the report [here](#).

UNESCO World Heritage Volunteer Campaign 2022 at Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple

UNESCO, Kakatiya Heritage Trust, ASI, Telangana Tourism, INTACH Warangal and ICOMOS India as the knowledge partner organized a 11-day volunteer camp at Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple, Palampet from 19-30 September. Read the report [here](#).

Architectural Archiving Workshop by CEPT Archives with ICOMOS India

CEPT Archives, CEPT University organized a two-day architectural archiving workshop on 30 September and 1 October at CEPT University Campus, Ahmedabad with ICOMOS India members. The workshop allowed the participants to engage with collections at the CEPT Archives and interact with peers from other key archives in Ahmedabad city. Read the report [here](#).

Featured Photo of the Quarter



Deco Design manifested itself extensively and beautifully in art, architecture, etc. Who would have thought that the then quiet & modest town of Pune would also bear witness to this? Studio Gestalt is currently exploring Pune's Deco Architectural Heritage.

-Photo & Text by Ar. Prerna Shetty, Studio Gestalt

Zone News

CENTRAL ZONE

Stories of Struggle for Independence from Oudh & Around

15 August 2022

To commemorate the occasion of the 75th year of Independence of India, ICOMOS India, Central Zone organized an insightful event to explore the role of Oudh in the freedom movement and to discuss ways to safeguard the sites of historical significance. With the esteemed panel of Dr. P.C. Sarkar, Mr. Samir Kher and Mr. Askari Naqvi, Rapporteur as Ms. Ananya Asthana, Moderator as Mr. Nishant Upadhyay, Zoom and event coordination handled by Ms. Simran Deshpande and graphics by Ms. Vidhi Jain.

The event began with the Moderator, Mr. Nishant Upadhyay's welcome note followed by an introduction of the esteemed panelists. The session started with an enlightening talk by Dr. P.C. Sarkar. With his factual narration of events. He highlighted the fact that the seeds of the uprising were sown in Moosa bagh, Lucknow, a few days before the incident at Meerut. The site is now in ruins and needs to be conserved for its high historic significance. He also mentioned names of other unsung heroes like Ahmadullah Shah 'Danka' and lesser-known strongholds in and around the city like the Taaronwali Kothi which played an important role in the movement but do not get the acknowledgment in the mainstream narrative.

The session was then taken over by Mr. Samir Kher who emphasized the importance of authentic stories and historical narratives in the public discourse and collective memory of the people. Stories of war and rebellion which are popular amongst the masses, stories of valor of the likes of Jhansi ki Rani and Tanya Tope but also of many such unsung brave freedom fighters who mostly remain unheard of. He also narrated the historic incident of the introduction of the infamous 'Enfield Rifle' which ultimately led to the first war of Independence in 1857.

From facts and stories of the uprising, the session took a rather cultural turn with Mr. Askari Naqvi's talk shed light on the cultural lens of the uprising and how the sentiment has been immortalized by the poems and literature of that time which played a huge impact on the cultural history of Awadh. The last Nawab of Awadh, Wajid Ali Shah with his iconic poem 'Babul mora naihar chhuto hi jaaye' to poets like Fazl-e-Haq Khairabadi and Munir Shikohabadi who stirred up the movement with their revolutionary writing and were even sentenced to Kala Pani. Poets of the likes of Josh Malihabadi and Mir Anees who were known for their patriotism and revolution for freedom in their works were also mentioned.

The talks were followed by the Panel Discussion moderated by Mr. Nishant. The panel discussed the brunt of the mutiny on Awadh as a province and more specifically Lucknow as a city and on its people. The rampant demolitions in Lucknow, lack of development opportunities and shifting the capital to Allahabad as a tactic of retaliation to the revolt at the hands of the British was also discussed. The rise and the important role of the print media as a catalyst in the freedom movement around the region; Nawal Kishore Press and newspapers like Awadh Panch and Awadh Akhbar served as the voice of the general public.

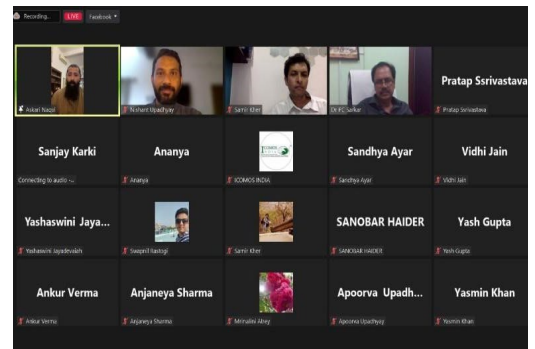
As the session reached its end, the panel discussed the importance of conservation policies to safeguard the values, stories and memories along with the physical conservation of the spaces and sites of historic significance. The importance

of an interdisciplinary approach in the field of cultural and urban heritage conservation and the importance of authentic narratives to make informed policies and decisions were also discussed.

The session concluded on ending remarks by the panelists which stressed upon the importance of an interdisciplinary approach in the field of urban heritage conservation and policy making as per the historical narratives of a city.



Panelist Mr. Askari Naqvi



Attendees of the Panel Discussion



Panelist Mr. P.C. Sarkar



Moderator Mr. Nishant Upadhyay

NSC News

NSC RISK PREPAREDNESS

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

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

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

NSC RP CultuRisk Tech Talk #10 **9 July 2022**

The 10th CultuRisk Tech Talk was conducted on 09 July 2022 by Ar. Vanicka Arora, a PhD scholar at the time of presentation at the Institute for Culture and Society, Western Sydney University. Her talk was a part of her PhD thesis on the topic of “Reconstruction of Built Heritage in Bhaktapur, Nepal following the Gorkha Earthquake”. Vanicka’s presentation outlined an examination of the framings and genealogies of reconstruction, the negotiation process involving local and global with traditional and modern practices and finally the question of what counts as “local”. She discussed the conceptualization and applicability of three framings of reconstruction namely: “Developmentalist, Conservation and Renewal” highlighting the definition and relevancy of all three framings in the case of reconstruction of built heritage in Bhaktapur, Nepal. The examples from her field research explicitly explained the material approach used in the reconstruction of Bhaktapur, Nepal after the 2015 Gorkha Earthquake.

NSC RP CultuRisk Tech Talk #11 **13 August 2022**

The 11th CultuRisk Tech Talk was conducted on 13 August 2022 by Anisha Patel. She is an architect by training and has completed her MA in World Heritage Studies from the Brandenburg University of Technology. She is currently pursuing an LL.M. in International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law from the European University Viadrina. She talked about the ongoing research work of olive farming in the Occupied Palestine Territory (oPt) with the background challenges of climate change and conflicts. Her research aims to develop holistic mitigation strategies. The presentation was based on the intersection of Culture, Conflict and Climate Change. She talked about the local significance of olive plantations in the Occupied Palestine territory. The intangible assimilation of olive farming and plantation is inscribed in the List of World Heritage in danger highlighting Palestine as the Land of Olives and Vines under the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir. Battir is

a UNESCO-recognised Palestinian Cultural landscape that has a deep valley system for agricultural purposes. Anisha recounted the struggle of the Palestinian peoples as resistance against Israel, based on the olive plantation becoming a sign of resistance and a symbol to remain connected with the land and roots of Free Palestine.

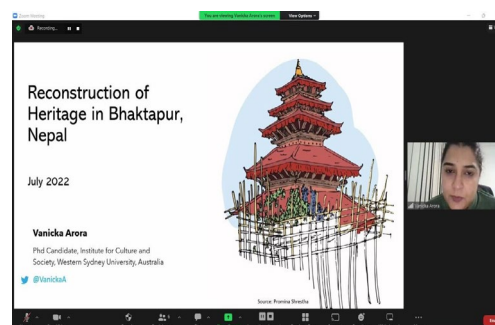
Anisha highlighted the impact of climate change and conflict on the olive plantation describing the threat and vulnerability from the changing climate and conflict resulting in food and water insecurity, land & soil degradation and destruction from extreme weather events such as flooding, heat waves and forest fires.

NSC RP CultuRisk Tech Talk #12 **17 September 2022**

Amit Tandon presented the ongoing research at the 12th CultuRisk Tech Talk on 17 September 2022. Amit is a disaster management professional working on the intersection of disaster risk reduction, water resource management and planning. His work primarily focuses on developing short, medium and long-term recovery needs for the communities. He is currently working as a disaster recovery consultant with District Disaster Management Authority, Lakhimpur, Assam. Amit discussed "Integrating Cultural Heritage in Recovery Planning of Mising Tribe".

Assam is one of the most disaster-prone states in the country, the Bharamaputra, Subhansiri and many other small tributaries bring frequent floods to the state. The Mising/Miri Tribe from Assam is one of the scheduled tribes living in the district. The presentation shared the socio-spatial relationship of the tribe with the floods.

In the presentation Amit shared information on adaptation done by the Mising tribe in their neighborhood pattern, housing typology, utilization of space and livelihood. The presentation also highlighted newer threats such as climate change and soil erosion that impacts the community.



TechTalk #10 by Vanicka Arora

Events Calendar

July to September 2022

DATE	NSC / ZONE / INSTITUTE	POINT OF CONTACT	NAME OF THE EVENT
9-Jul	NSC RP	Shahzad A. Malik, NSC RP Co-coordinator	CultuRisk Tech-Talk #10
13-Aug	NSC RP	Shahzad A. Malik, NSC RP Co-coordinator	CultuRisk Tech-Talk #11
15-Aug	Central Zone	Nishant Upadhyay, Central Zone Representative	Stories of Struggle for Independence from Oudh & Around
24-Aug	NSC Theophilos, NSC ICH, NSC CL and North East Zone	Shubhru Gupta	Research Studies Leading to Knowledge and Wisdom for Sustainable Conservation of World Heritage Sites of India
17-Sept	NSC RP	Shahzad A. Malik, NSC RP Co-coordinator	CultuRisk Tech-Talk #12
24 Sept	ICOMOS India, Art Fervour & Fun On Streets	Sohini Pyne	ICOMOS India Masterplan Heritage Walks@75: The Nationalist Trail with ICOMOS India and Fun On Streets
24 Sept	ICOMOS India & Art Fervour	Rahul Bhola	ICOMOS India Masterplan Heritage Walks@75: Heritage Walk at Nubra Valley, Ladakh by ICOMOS India
19-30 Sept	UNESCO, Kakatiya Heritage Trust, ASI, Telangana Tourism, INTACH Warangal, ICOMOS India	GSV Suryanarayana Murthy, South Zone Representative	UNESCO World Heritage Volunteer Campaign 2022 at Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple
30 Sept	CEPT Archives with ICOMOS India	Dr. Jigna Desai, Institutional Representative	Architectural Archiving Workshop by CEPT Archives with ICOMOS India

ICOMOS India Masterplan 2022-23

ABOUT MASTERPLAN INITIATIVE

ICOMOS India, in the spirit of India completing 75 years of Independence, had announced a set of initiatives under the banner of 'Masterplan 2022-23' during the Annual General Meeting 2022 held on 28 May in Sushant University, Gurgaon. The Masterplan initiative is centred in and around the *Azaadi ka Amrit Mahotsav* themes to celebrate and acknowledge the development over the course of India's independence spanning 75 years. The themes are provided as Freedom Struggle, Ideas@75, Resolve@75, Action@75 and Achievements@75.

Focusing on developing a range of activities within the narrative of heritage in India over the course of independence, the Emerging Professionals Working Group (EPWG) prepared this set of initiatives. This plan intends to bring together individuals and organizations alike in this celebration and acknowledgment of India's diverse heritage and culture, through various means of online events like seminars, webinars and publications along with on-ground efforts like workshops, heritage walks and exhibitions, all through collaborative efforts.

The ICOMOS India Masterplan currently has following projects curated by the Masterplan Core Committee, National Scientific Committees and Working Groups, which are in various stages of development.

Exhibition

On the occasion of the 75-year anniversary of India's Independence, an exhibition is designed and curated to display the story/history of heritage conservation in the country. The aim of the exhibition is to showcase India's glorious journey into the realm of heritage conservation.

Project OUTdoors

OUTdoors is a collection of uncommon locations and places you can visit when in the mood to explore your city and nearby areas. These consist of natural heritage and built heritage sites, which can help you reconnect with nature and culture, improve wellbeing and push for more sustainable cities! The project includes 4 initiatives: (i) Developing Project Website Mapping Heritage Sites, (ii) Curating & organising Heritage Walks, (iii) Research & Blogs on Heritage & SDG interlinkages, (iv) Webinar Series.

Heritage Walk@75

The project aims to curate a series of heritage walks, numbered 75 (to symbolise 75 years of Independence) through the length and breadth of the country, with the culmination walk taking place in August 2023 with simultaneous walks at the core centres of 1857 Revolt. As of September 2022, two walks have taken place across India, with a plan to explore more unexplored gems.

Heritage & Urban Local Bodies

The project aims to undertake initiatives in collaboration with Urban Local Bodies on the subject of Heritage and Sustainable Development Goals, taking this agenda forward at local level as an important part of celebrating the 75th

year of India's independence. The proposed events are categorized in this framework: (i) Pan-India Competition, (ii) Panel Discussion based on event outcomes- ULB reps and ICOMOS Experts + Coverage/Broadcast, (iii) Exhibition, (iv) Conclave (culminating event).

Heritage & Education

The project under Masterplan 2022 aims to conduct events in collaboration with schools for making children more aware and active in this ambition of imparting sensitivity towards heritage. This can be achieved by organizing student-led activities where they can identify and build upon the awareness and momentum to save unprotected heritage in tandem with civic engagements. Events under the 'Heritage & Education' project will aim to integrate themes of 75 years of Independence as well as merging these themes into the CBSE syllabus given at the end of each chapter.

Publication

A publication is proposed capturing the journey of the heritage conservation movement in India in a post-colonial period (1970 – 2020). It will include a broad overview of the state of conservation practice and profession over a span of fifty years, and attempt to project a trajectory for the next twenty-five years i.e., 2047, when India will be celebrating 100 years of independence.

Future of Unlisted Heritage

The project aims to recognize the honourable freedom fighters engaged in India's freedom struggle and conserving their memory by locating their homes, meeting places and sites of importance which held significance during the struggle but are now unknown or forgotten. The idea to explore and acknowledge the unsung heroes of that period as well as conserve their memory by spreading awareness. The project 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.

Lifetime Achievement Award for Conservation Champions of India

Lifetime Achievement Award for Conservation is a project that looks at identifying and celebrating the efforts of individuals who have given over three decades of service towards the conservation of tangible and intangible heritage of our country and make opportunities for the citizens of the country to take pride in our cultural heritage.

HERITAGE WALKS@75

The Nationalist Trail by Fun On Streets & Art Fervour 24 September 2022

The Nationalist Trail Heritage Walk in Kolkata was organized by ICOMOS India Heritage Walks@75 team in collaboration with Art Fervour, led by Dr. Mrinalini Atrey and Kritika Mohan, with East Zone project coordinator Sohini Pyne and Fun On Streets local collaborator Navpreet Arora. The walk began at 7.30 a.m. on September 24, 2022 and had 15 participants. The walk along Kolkata's Nationalist Trail was intended to highlight sites significant in the freedom struggle. Navpreet Arora of Fun on Streets led the walk at Bidhan Sarani, or the former Cornwallis Street, which became a hotbed of nationalism and a center of cultural and literary renaissance. The walk began at Bethune College, whose Alumni includes many female luminaries such as Kadambini Ganguly and Chandramukhi Basu as well as nationalist revolutionaries such as Bina Das.

The trail continued to residential structures associated with unsung heroes such as Bhavani Charan Bandyopadhyay, WC Bonnerjee, Kalipada Basu, D.L. Roy, and Deenabandhu Mitra, who fought for freedom in their own unique ways; some with arms, some with the written word, and some by providing shelter and financial assistance. The walk concluded with visits to various institutions such as the Anushilan Samiti, an underground society for anti-British revolutionaries, and organizations such as the Arya Samaj and the Brahmo Samaj. The walk came to an end with a visit to the home of Kadambini Ganguly, the first Indian woman to practice medicine in India and the first woman to speak in the Indian National Congress.



Sights on sites; Credit: Sohini Pyne



Walk the talk!; Credit: Sohini Pyne

Heritage Walk at Nubra Valley, Leh

24 September 2022

On September 24th 2022, the walk was held in Panamik village, Nubra Valley (Leh). During the Silk Route Trade, Panamik village was one of the most important halting points for traders. Panamik is also well-known for its therapeutic hot springs. Mr. Sonam Wangchok led the heritage walk, with Mr. Tsetan Tonyot and Ms. Padma Lhamo as assistants. The majority of the participants came from Govt High School Panamik in Nubra.



Glimpses of local architecture; Credit: Rabul Bhola



Conversations around heritage; Credit: Rabul Bhola



Domestic architecture in Nubra Valley; Credit: Sohini Pyne

Collaborative Activities

NSC THEOPHILOS, NSC ICH, NSC CL & NORTH EAST ZONE

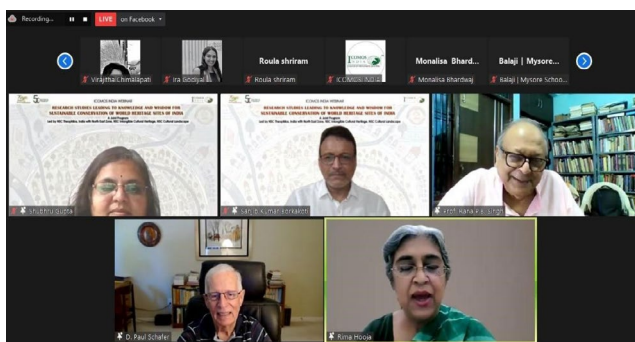
Research Studies Leading to Knowledge and Wisdom for Sustainable Conservation of World Heritage Sites of India

24 August 2022

An event envisioned with joint efforts of NSC Theophilos, NSC ICH, NSC CL and North East Zone titled Research Studies Leading to Knowledge and Wisdom for Sustainable Conservation of World Heritage Sites of India, aimed to explore avenues for sustainable conservation of World Heritage Sites in India. The event was inaugurated by Dr Navin Piplani, President of ICOMOS India who stated that the 75th anniversary of Indian independence is perhaps the right time for the experts to discuss how we see world heritage and how our approaches need to be redefined.

Prof. Nalini Thakur who has been meticulously curating this series of webinars with the support of NSC ICH, NSC CL and North East Zone, introduced the event - the need for research studies in sustainable conservation of World Heritage Sites, particularly from a cultural and local perspective. "In India, cultural perspective is critical, and the conservation movement must derive from our own perspectives as an independent country," She said. The first program was envisioned as a Foundation Program on Cultural Perspectives that would take advantage of the opportunity to bring the key objectives represented by the two aforementioned events and engage in a discussion focused on the processing of discourse emerging from real-world situations and actions in order to shape the philosophical basis underlying the collective cultural base upon which the cultural resource protection and management system is built - from conservation to management.

Prof. Rana P.B. Singh gave a seminar on Cultural Landscapes and India;
Dr. Sanjib Kumar Borkakoti gave a seminar on Culture as an Integrating Factor;
Mr. D Paul Schafer gave a seminar on World as Culture;
Ar. Shubhru Gupta moderated the proceedings;
Dr. Mrinalini Atrey moderated and summarized the panel discussion;
Krittika Mohan of North-East Zone presented the vote of thanks.



Speakers of the webinar

SOUTH ZONE, UNESCO, KAKATIYA HERITAGE TRUST, ASI, TELANGANA TOURISM & INTACH WARANGAL

UNESCO World Heritage Volunteer Campaign 2022 (WHV 2022) at Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple

19-30 September 2022

The World Heritage Volunteers (WHV) 2022 Campaign was successfully conducted and organized by Kakatiya Heritage Trust (KHT) with support and advise of ASI, TSTDC, INTACH and knowledge partnership of ICOMOS India from September 19th 2022 to September 30th 2022, at World Heritage Site Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple, Palampet Village, Mulugu District, Telangana.

In response to KHT's invitation to register for participation in the World Heritage Volunteer (WHV)-2022 Campaign on their [website](#), 274 candidates registered, of which 43 Indian Nationals and 7 Foreign Nationals were chosen from the fields of Art, Architecture, Archaeology, Civil Engineering, History and Tourism. All these volunteers reported on September 18th, 2022, and were lodged in Ramappa lake cottages adjacent to the Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple site.

The volunteers were exposed to natural heritage, tangible and intangible sites in the vicinity of the World Heritage property. The volunteers were exposed to renovation and restoration activities of Kakatiya monuments with a focus on Geo-Engineering principles, construction technology, and material selection, as well as methods used for monument restoration. They were also exposed to the removal and rebuilding of Kalyana Mandapam of Thousand Pillar Temple, an ASI monument that is being restored using Agama Shastra and Anastylosis principles. This is being restored using the same materials for construction, including a sand box at the foundation, and with no more than a 1mm variation from its original structure. This is the first of its kind in India, and it is expected to last for another 1000 years.

The twelve-day volunteer program attempted to broaden their educational knowledge in a variety of disciplines. Volunteers were also taught new skills in the renovation, restoration and preservation of heritage monuments. Every day's morning yoga practice has instilled in them the value of physical, mental and spiritual well-being. Because the participants came from various parts of India and abroad, a sense of unity and togetherness was created, which aided in their orientation as good heritage volunteers. In a nutshell the World Heritage Volunteers (WHV)-2022 was a success at Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple, and focused on technical skills of heritage education and interpersonal skills among committed youth volunteers with national integration goal.

CEPT ARCHIVES & ICOMOS INDIA

Architectural Archiving Workshop by CEPT Archives with ICOMOS India

30 September 2022



Volunteers at prehistoric rock painting site; Credit: KHT



Gussadi Tribal Dance; Credit: KHT



3rd day at Ramappa Temple; Credit: KHT



Concluding Programme at WHV 2022; Credit: KHT

On Friday, September 30th, and Saturday, October 1st 2022, CEPT Archives and CEPT University held a two-day in-person Architectural Archiving Workshop with the members of ICOMOS India at the CEPT University campus in Ahmedabad. Through interaction with collections at the CEPT Archives, the workshop covered various aspects of architectural archiving. Through a curated site visit, participants were able to engage and interact with peers from three other key institutional archives in Ahmedabad. The workshop included talks from industry expert Dr. Tridip Suhrod as well as an orientation to archival processes undertaken at CEPT Archives, IIMA Archives, Sarabhai Foundation, and L.D. Institute of Indology. The curated site visits provided insights into various archival methodologies used to cater to the specificities of each archive's unique collection. The workshop was open and free for ICOMOS India members as well as CEPT University faculty, PhD, and postgraduate students.



Participants engaged in a discussion; Credit: CEPT Archives



Participants at the workshop; Credit: CEPT Archives

Members' Corner

AR. PRERNA SHETTY (STUDIO GESTALT)

Article on Architectural Archiving Workshop at CEPT University

The two-day archiving Workshop conducted at CEPT university consisted of exposing the participants to a variety of archives so that a broad-level understanding of its complexities and prerequisites can be appreciated. Although not very widely known, archiving has always been & always will be an important process in preserving historical evidence for posterity. The rudimentary definition was known to me but the sheer multitude of parameters involved came to the surface after attending this workshop. The word “archive” was better defined in order to understand what separates an archive from a repository. This is where implications of ethics came into the picture. This material was created many years ago, has survived natural, social & political deterioration and is a piece of history that must be open for public reference and emphasis was given to methodology.

Typically, the word “archive” or “archival” brings forth images of old photographs or maps. But the act of actually filing these old documents in a manner that would be easy for a lay person to access is as yet shrouded.

To the casual observer, archiving may sound like a dull, mechanical job but it is more cerebral than one may realize. Classification itself can get very complicated and adding on the task of storing these aging, valuable documents such that they sustain makes for a complicated, labour intensive, conscientious system. The end user, the owner and the infrastructure must be considered. The best way forward in this case would be to use existing infrastructure so that it is one less thing to worry about. The established infrastructure brings with itself an experienced workforce which works on an established system. The workforce would already be trained and even if a new system is to be established, it can be done with minimal orientation. This was evidenced by the archives of The Sarabhai Foundation and those of the L.D. Institute of Indology. Both of these institutes also housed museums to give a cursory understanding of the quality of their archives.

The bundles of documents lying unopened contain within it many unanswered questions, primary of which is, who is this going to benefit? The institutions that may fall under a similar field of study, may not be able to adequately share this raw data; the decline or inadequacy of the public library coupled with the advent of the internet has reduced the number of scholars who might visit an archive in person. This may be viewed as an advantage as well as a disadvantage because the archived rare documents would be less handled, so better preserved but then undigitized documents would be inaccessible and lack of visitors may lead to documents being less cared for. Digitizing documents is a painstaking undertaking which requires careful handling and accountability of each document.

Making an archive such that it finances itself is an approach that must be planned at the very first phase. Creating an archive keeping this fiscal plan as a base makes it all the more probable for the archive to succeed. An archive should acquire its collections free of cost and should be able to then give access to scholars free of cost. The financial consideration, then, makes it all the more possible to conduct an accessible archive. Thus, organizations such as ICOMOS, etc., with its potential & connections with various institutions are in a position to realistically create an accessible & reliable source of important & useful information.

Book Launch of ‘The Art of Theatrical Backdrops’

The launch event of the book ‘The Art of Theatrical Backdrops’ written by Dr. Amol Divkar, curated by Studio Gestalt and published by Invincible Publishers was organised at the Sumant Moolgaonkar Auditorium of the MCCIA Trade Tower, Pune. The book was published at the hands of chief guests of the event, Ar. Ved Segan (Theatre & Conservation Architect), Pt. Suhas Vyas (Classical Vocalist), Smt. Madhuvanti Dandekar (Classical Vocalist) & Dr. Divkar (Author). A classical music performance was held. The theatrical arts & theatre have a long history in Pune. The city is blessed with wonderful artists. However, the contribution of the individuals like the technicians of light & sound, makeup artists, etc. who toil in the shadows is often disregarded. Backdrop artists too, are a part of these. Along with examining the art, technicality, aesthetics, etc. of the backdrop artists, this book aims to shed light on their legacy & contribution. We at Studio Gestalt recognised the enormous potential in this topic and the necessity of educating theatre-goers about it as Heritage Consultants. We assisted the author with the documentation, design, and publication process in general. We hope that the readers find it as illuminating as we have.



Image Credit: Studio Gestalt



Image Credit: Studio Gestalt

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

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

WARM WISHES FOR 2023!



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Council on Monuments and Sites (COMOS)



ADDRESS

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