

ICOMOS INDIA

October-December 2020



Photo courtesy: Jon Page

New Paradigms for Conserving Cultural Heritage in India by Prof AGK Menon



3000+ women pursuing as livelihood
Acclaimed in fashion world

Photo courtesy: banglanatak dot com, as presented by Ms Ananya Bhattacharya at the ICH Webinar for ICOMOS

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From the Secretariat

The October to December quarter started with the Executive Committee Members meeting (Ex Com. 05) to pass a resolution to hold a SGM (Special General Meeting) to present and adopt the Annual Budget, The Strategic Plan and the amendment to SOPG Annexure 14. As per the MOA clause 10, the Secretary notified all members of the society about the time & place of the meeting and the business to be transacted at the meeting on 10th October thereby to invite participation of all ICOMOS India members.



Special General Meeting (SGM)

The Special General Meeting was held through Virtual (Online) mode on Sunday, 1st November 2020, from 11.00 AM to 1.30 PM, chaired by the President of ICOMOS India, to transact the below special agenda items.

1. Considering and Approving the Strategic Plan
2. Considering and Approving the Annual Budget 2020-21
3. Approving and Adopting the amendment to SOPG -Annexure 14.

An overwhelming response was received by the members and as per the MOA, a quorum of 33% membership was achieved during the online SGM.

With the unanimous agreement of the members present at the SGM, the Strategic Plan was approved and adopted, The Annual Budget for 2020-21 was approved and adopted and the amendment to the SOPG -Annexure 14 was approved and adopted.

National Scientific Conclave

The NSC Conclave 2020 was held through Virtual (Online) mode on 27 and 28 November from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. A wide participation of NSC Coordinators, WG Focal points & members was seen on both days. The two day conclave discussions were focused around the way forward and vision for the NSC's & Working Groups, the triennial scientific plan for 2020-23, alignment with ISC's and mechanisms & timelines for NSC research grants. [\(For more details on the NSC Conclave, refer to NSC Counsellor Report.\)](#)

Financial Matters

Budget 2020-21: The Treasurer presented the Budget 2020-21 to the members at the Special General Meeting on 1st November. The membership approved and adopted the budget for an amount of Rs. 39,53,200 including taxes.

EPWG Elections (2020 - 2023)

EPWG elections for new representatives were conducted from 16th to 26th Nov. for 7 positions: 1 National EPWG Representative and 6 regional representatives. for a three-year term (2020-23).

An EPWG Elections Volunteer Group comprising of Ms Ritika Khanna - EPWG National Representative, Ms Priyanka Singh - Treasurer, Mr Nishant Upadhyay - Central Zone Representative & Dr Jigna Desai - Institutional Member Representative facilitated all work leading up to the elections. The criteria, schedule of elections, along with rules of procedure and all relevant information was detailed and put together as a document.

Ms. Vartika Sharma, Advocate and a member of NSC-LAFI, was invited to undertake the role of the 'Elections Officer'. All matters related to the election were coordinated by the Election Officer. communication and sharing of information regarding the elections was done through the official email ID: ep-wgelections2020@gmail.com, privy only to the Officer. The following schedule of elections was followed:

Date	Meeting
Nov 16	Announcement of Elections and Request for Candidature
Nov 20	Last date for Receipt of Candidature by 6 PM IST
Nov 21	Announcement of List of Candidates & Voting Open
Nov 25	Voting Closed at 6pm IST
Nov 26	Announcement of Results via email
Nov 27	Presentation of Election Report at NSC Conclave

The counting of votes was done through an online secret ballot via google forms, which was privy only to the Elections Officer- who was responsible for the announcement of the results and preparation of the election report.

The Election Officer, Ms. **Vertika Sharma**, Member NSC-LAFI, presented EPWG elections report at the NSC Conclave on Day-1 (27 November). The following EPWG members were elected as the new EPWG Rep Team -

Ms Saranya Dharshini K National Representative	Ms Aditi Rai North Zone Representative
Ms Lakshmi Ravikumar South Zone Representative	Ms Nigar Shaikh West Zone Representative
Ms Shuchita Singh Central Zone Representative	Mr Sukrit Sen East Zone Representative
Ms Krittika Mohan North East Zone	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1 Announcement of IIM A Heritage Alert Sub-Committee

The secretariat announced on 25th December via listserv, the IIMA Heritage @ Risk Sub-Committee with the Objective to send a representation to IIMA marking our strong concern over the demolition of 18 Dorms of IIMA. The sub-committee members are Prof. AGK Menon, Prof. Kiran Joshi(Co-Covener), Ms. Annabel Lopez, Mr. Navin Piplani, Dr. Rima Hooja (Convener), Dr. Arun Menon, Ms. Poonam Trambadia, Ms. Ritika Jharia, Ms. Nitya Iyer, Ms. Chirashree Thakkar & Ms. Shalini Dasgupta. Dr. Rima Hooja has agreed to be the Convener and Prof. Kiran Joshi the Co-Convener of the sub committee.

2 Appointment of ICOMOS Research Intern

Executive Committee (ExCom) of ICOMOS India selected Ms. Lipika Khanna for the position of Research Intern to work at the Secretariat. Ms. Khanna commenced her internship at ICOMOS India office from 15th December 2020. Lipika is a master student of Heritage Conservation and Site Management at the Brandenburg University of Technology, Germany and a professionally trained architect.

3 Announcement of Listserv for members Discussion Forum and Netiquette

COVID has made us realise the value of communication more than ever before. ICOMOS India opened a dedicated 'Listserv forum' for all its members to have relevant and meaningful discussions on 7th November 2020. This Discussion Listserv Forum: icomos-india-d@lists.icomos.org is separate from the existing Listserv: icomos-india@lists.icomos.org The latter is a dedicated channel for announcements from ICOMOS India, in order that official information is not lost in a discussion forum. The discussion forum is provided to exchange information that is relevant to the vision, objectives and activities of the organisation; to share new ideas and knowledge that directly pertains to the organization or a wider heritage sector. As the membership grows and new members are added each year, a certain 'etiquette guidelines' are intended to ensure that all participants have a valuable and meaningful experience: Healthy and engaging debate is core to a Listserv forum (henceforth, to be called listserv). The discussions on the lists are meant to stimulate conversation, not create contention. In order to assure a meaningful, dignified and respectful discussion amongst members, a document called 'ICOMOS India Discussion Forum Netiquettes' was also circulated.

4 Announcement of New Membership / Renewals

ICOMOS India opened the 2nd cycle of the New Memberships and renewals for the year 2021 from 1st November 2020. The deadline for second cycle of new registrations and renewals was set upto 15th December 2020.

5 Announcement of New NSC Coordinator

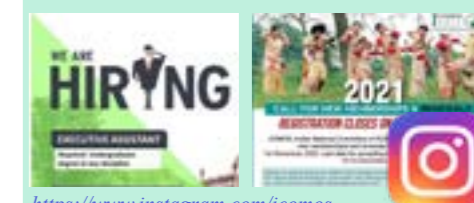
This Quarter saw a change in the NSC Coordinator of NSC ICAHM. Ms. Geetika Kalha resigned and passed on the coordinatorship to Ms. Radhika Dhumal. Ms. Dhumal was also appointed as an Expert Voting member of the ISC.

6 Announcement of ICOMOS India International Webinar

NSC on Intangible heritage (ICH) of ICOMOS India supported by ICOMOS International organised a webinar on Indian Crafts on October 31,2020 from 4.30-6.30pm IST. The webinar was a part of ICOMOS



<https://www.facebook.com/icomosindia>



<https://www.instagram.com/icomosindia/?hl=en>

DIGITAL OUTREACH

The Secretariat has been working on active digital outreach, by engaging with social media platforms- including Facebook, Instagram and Twitter- for important announcements, webinars being conducted by ICOMOS India, and periodic updates on activities. ICOMOS India' Youtube Channel has also been revived, with all stand alone webinars, and webinar series conducted by ICOMOS India in the past year, added to our channel, and organised in playlists for ease of viewing. The ICOMOS India Official website has links to all our handles across digital platforms.



Visit our Youtube Channel for listening in to the Recorded Sessions of ICOMOS India Online Events:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9YYzVgik_qw2_xab47yJQ



https://twitter.com/ICOMOS_India

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International Webinar series. The Title of the webinar was Crafting Resilience: Craft communities and their resilience as embedded in the traditional knowledge: A critical component of intangible cultural heritage. Crafting Resilience webinar was a narrative of four case studies from different parts of the country with a historic perspective of crafts communities, their struggles, and adaptation to disasters over the years. The webinar brought together individuals who had led movements of crafts revival in their respective regions and worked for a resilient future for crafts and their practitioners.

7 Announcement of Signing of the Agreement of Cooperation between COMOS and Jindal Global University

An Agreement of cooperation was signed between ICOMOS India and Jindal Global University on 9th December 2020 for a period of three years, to establish ties of cooperation for the purpose of promoting mutual understanding and academic development to enrich theory and practice in cultural and natural heritage management, specifically in the subject of Rights Based Approaches (RBA) in heritage management aligned with Sustainable Development Goals 2030. The title of the program for cooperation is 'Building Capacity To Support Rights-Based Approaches In Heritage Management: Learning From Research Of Existing Heritage Practice, Management Systems & Legal Frame-Works'.

The program is anchored with the RBA Working Group of ICOMOS India. Ms. Gurmeet Rai (Focal Point of the WG) would be leading the program towards this association.

PRESENCE OF ICOMOS INDIA IN THE INTERNATIONAL SCENARIO

1 20th ICOMOS General Assembly (GA) -

Voting members from ICOMOS India participated in the virtual General Assembly and elections. The 20th ICOMOS GA took place virtually between 3 and 16 December 2020. Voting took place via the Euro-vote platform.

- » Ms. Nupur Prothi Khanna from ICOMOS India was elected to the ICOMOS Board ([Find note of thanks by the member here](#)).
- » The elections of the new Bureau of International Scientific Committee on Twentieth Century Heritage (ISC20C) were held in October 2020, overseen by Tamer Gok of ICLAFI. Prof. Kiran Joshi, former President - ICOMOS India, was elected for the post of Secretary General and Ms. Smriti Pant as one of the six Vice Presidents. ([Find Prof Joshi's Vision for ISC20C here.](#))
- » Priyanka Singh, current Treasurer of the National Committee of India, was appointed to the Resolutions Committee. ([Find more details here.](#))

2 'Crafting Resilience' Webinar was organized by NSC Intangible Cultural Heritage as a Part of International ICOMOS Webinar Series on October 31, 2020. ([Refer to NSC ICH Report as part of NSC News.](#))

3 [Find more details](#) on the contribution of Ms Saranya Dharshini Karunanithi in a Book called "Water Heritage - Global Perspectives for Sustainable Development", in Members' Corner.

SUB-COMMITTEES UPDATE

Publications Sub-Committee Update

The publications sub-committee met to discuss the progress of the quarterly newsletter along with the Publication on Varanasi symposium (2019) and Chennai symposium (2020). The exercise for undertaking the ISBN no. was also explored. The committee also decided to undertake the services of the web designer for the e-book format of the quarterly newsletter and subsequent annual reports.

Central Vista Sub-Committee Update

The CV Sub committee members met several times to brain storm on the further course of action. A letter of concern was sent to DUAC and HCC on behalf of ICOMOS India by the president in October and November subsequently. Further the committee members have been working to put a technical report together.

IIMA Heritage Alert

Sub-Committee Update

After the formation of the IIMA Heritage @ Risk sub-committee, members met to put their thoughts together to send a letter of Concern to the concerned authorities at IIMA. The letter of concern was sent by the President ICOMOS India on 27th December to the authorities at IIMA. Discussions were also held with ICOMOS International and ISC20C and other international heritage organisations for support for saving these buildings. The Sub Committee agreed to offer all support to ISC20C for the preparation of the ICOMOS Heritage Alert.

EPWG Hand-over Meeting

The EPWG handing over virtual meeting was held on 12th December, 2020 from 11.00 am, to 12:00 pm. The main agenda for the Meeting was to Introduce the elected National and Zonal EPWG representative to the members of the Executive Committee and handover of official email ids along with all documents / data to Incoming reps by Outgoing reps. (For more details on EPWG handover, refer to the report in the EPWG Section.)

NSC CONCLAVE 2020

NSC News

A Report by NSC Counsellor, Dr Arun Menon

Conclave 2020 was conducted in a web-based mode on 27 and 28 November from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM on both days. Recalling the Principles for International Scientific Committees of ICOMOS (a.k.a. Eger-Xi'an Principles) adopted by the 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS in October 2005, NSCs in turn are expected to be "at the heart of scientific inquiry and exchange in their domains" to cultivate an interdisciplinary approach to heritage protection and management.

The Conclave witnessed two invited presentations: "Resilient and Sustainable Development of Historic Precincts and Areas: Focus West Bengal" by Sanghamitra Basu, Coordinator, NSC-HTV and "Establishing a

NSCs are expected to be "at the heart of scientific inquiry and exchange in their domains" to cultivate an interdisciplinary

Thematic Framework for Identification and Listing of 20C Architecture of Pre-Independence Period in India" by Annabel Lopez, Coordinator,

NSC-20C and team. The second invited talk was followed by Views from the Central Vista Working Committee (CVWC), specifically on the Role of NSC-20C, NSC-LAFI and NSC-SBH, by Smita Makhija and Team CVWC.

Some of the key challenges facing the NSCs of ICOMOS India were discussed. The current avatar of ICOMOS India and NSCs is still in a nascent stage. Though ICOMOS India has a 350+ strong membership, little is known about ICOMOS beyond the heritage conservation circle. Clarity on role, scope, agenda of ICOMOS is elusive to many members. Procedures for approval of NSC initiatives are becoming bureaucratic and time consuming, which is leading to loss of enthusiasm in an organization that primarily depends on volunteerism. Members must be conscious of the self-inflicted harm of red tape on the leadership, which should be focusing on more important matters. ICOMOS India needs to nurture and develop a culture of writing and publishing.

President ICOMOS India, Navin Piplani in his address offered the following suggestions for resolutions from the Conclave 2020, with additional emphasis on aspects such as the Post-Covid19 Scenario, Climate Crisis, SDGs 2030, Knowledge Sharing (mentor-mentee) and Community Well-Being.

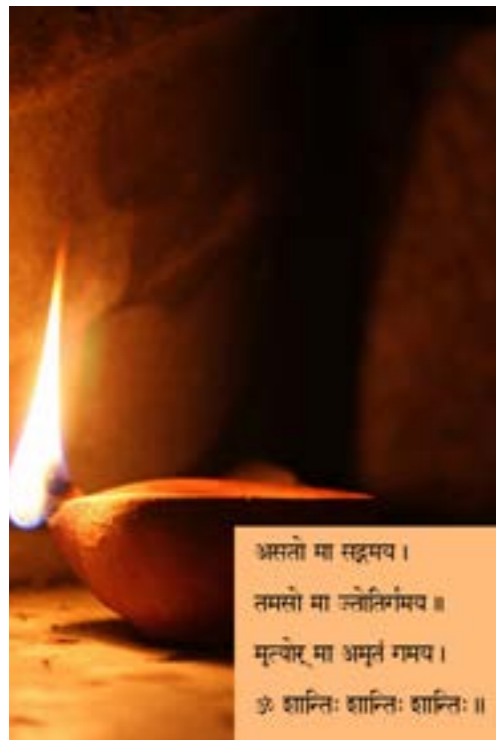
- » Emphasizing on voluntary involvement, with little expectation on financial support.



- » Recognizing that membership engagement is of voluntary nature.
- » Conducting working session(s) to develop White/ Position paper.
- » Developing focus on scientific publications.
- » Identifying and working on doctrinal texts, technical/scientific glossary.
- » Developing institutional collaborative framework.
- » Developing frameworks for scientific and systematic approach to exploration of issues, investigation of matter, assessment of potential impact, monitoring of action, communication with stakeholders
- » Evolving programs for capacity building, advocacy, and outreach, and
- » Considering means for fundraising and financing.

Towards effecting structural changes in the functioning and role of NSCs, it was identified that sincere effort must be made to:

- » FACILITATE ICOMOS Members to use NSC platforms without unnecessary encumbrances. Outreach is a mandate of each member.
- » Use the NSC/ICOMOS platform to expeditiously support important causes.
- » ACKNOWLEDGE the legitimacy of their membership. We cannot constantly subject members to scrutiny of what they propose to do as members of NSCs and ICOMOS. Due diligence must be made at entry to ICOMOS and entry to NSC. Review mechanism of active participation of membership in furthering the objectives of NSCs is essential.
- » EMPOWER NSC Coordinators in charting NSC's Triennial Scientific Plan. Greater dialogue must be fostered between NSCs Coordinators.
- » The SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL should become the platform to develop, implement and review NSC affairs and particularly, NSC's Triennial Scientific Plan.
- » Create an environment of AUTONOMY for NSCs with ACCOUNTABILITY.
- » DECENTRALISE and reduce burden on Executive Committee. Simplify mechanisms for institutional approval. Categorize activities that require rigorous review and those that only need simple, moral support. Make NSC Counsellor and Coordinators accountable for smaller activities (e.g., outreach, webinars, etc.).
- » Bring in greater TRANSPARENCY in review and approvals. Clearly identify



Introductory Photo, presented by Dr Arun Menon as part of Vision and Developing a Road Map Presentation @ NSC Conclave 2020

In fulfilment of goals of ICOMOS as stated in Article 5-b of its statutes: “Gather, study and disseminate information concerning principles, techniques and policies” related to heritage protection.



Photo, presented by Dr Arun Menon as part of Vision and Developing a Road Map Presentation @ NSC Conclave 2020

- WORKFLOWS, RESPONSIBILITIES and TIMELINES for all review/ approval mechanisms.
- » Encourage NSCs to engage actively (the power of DOING). In-house NSC activities are a must to kindle enthusiasm, develop team thinking, sustain a sense of purpose, and begin creating an impact on the ground.
- » Propagate a CULTURE of writing. Identify potential NSC publications in triennial and annual cycles. NSC should be encouraged to have their own websites/newsletters. Eventually, ICOMOS could work towards establishing a Journal of Heritage Conservation Practice.

Over the course of the two days, each nsc and wg coordinator or focal point made presentations on the genesis and alignment with respective isc, observations on the indian context, vision, and objectives of the nsc/wg, list and profile of members, activities of 2019-20, proposed activities for the period 2020-23 and specific techno-administrative matters and facilitation sought.

The conclave committed to develop a roadmap for a triennial scientific plan for icomos india with immediate



Photo, presented by Dr Arun Menon as part of Vision and Developing a Road Map Presentation @ NSC Conclave 2020

focus on activating a scientific council, completing the process of preparing nsc white papers defining nsc objectives, alignment with respective iscs and conceptualizing their scientific plans. the conclave also deliberated on plans to streamline nsc activity categories, mechanisms, and timelines for approval of grants and review in line with the strategy document and annual budgeting.

The National Scientific Conclave 2020 concluded with the following resolutions:

- » **RESOLUTION 1:** Conduct meeting of NSC Coordinators to deliberate and finalise recommendations to Executive Committee to constitute Scientific Council of ICOMOS India. Composition, roles, and responsibilities of Scientific Council can follow the Eger-Xian Principles for ISCs.
- » **RESOLUTION 2:** Conduct wider deliberation under Scientific Council on Triennial Scientific Plan and finalize and approve the following documents/procedures: SOPG Annexure-7: COMOS Policy on NSC; Categorization of Activities of NSC Activities and Research Grants into: OUTREACH Type 1: Participation of NSC Reps. in external events, OUTREACH Type 2: Co-Sponsorship Requests for external events, OUTREACH Type 3: NSC Initiated TRAINING & CAPACITY BUILDING, RESEARCH SEED GRANTS
- » **RESOLUTION 3:** Consolidate first version of NSC White Papers by January 2021.
- » **RESOLUTION 4:** Define types, selection process and performance review mechanisms for NSC Memberships, and role and selection of NSC Co-Coordinator.
- » **RESOLUTION 5:** Define NSC-External Agency engagement framework to protect the involvement and recognition of ICOMOS/NSC members.
- » **RESOLUTION 6:** Define SOP on ICOMOS India actions for HERITAGE @ RISK.

NSC INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Coordinator: Mrinalini Atrey
Webinar Series
Crafting Resilience

31st October 2020

On Zoom & Facebook Live @ 4:30 PM IST
Number of Participants: 70+



“Crafting Resilience”. Crafts Communities in India; Lessons of resilience in context of disasters and pandemics (a historic perspective). International ICOMOS webinar series October 31, 2020.

NSC ICH India has been home to diverse traditional handicrafts since times immemorial. Like any other occupation, these craftsmen have been practising their crafts amidst disasters as well, be it natural or otherwise. These disasters with their frequent occurrences have affected the craftsmen, at times forcing them to abandon their crafts, to take up other vocations, at the risk of losing the knowledge of producing a craft. But in many situations, these communities have also reoriented themselves in producing artefacts, albeit in a much-modified context, with altered relationships to resources and markets. Moreover, Artisan communities, remain marginalized vis a vis existing social hierarchies.

Crafting Resilience, was an effort to bring together artisans and heritage experts to know their journey of resilience as embedded in their traditional knowledge and skills- a critical part of intangible cultural heritage. The webinar brought forth a narrative of case studies from different parts of the country with a historic perspective of crafts communities, their struggles and adaptation with disasters over the years. This was presented by eminent experts, who have led the movements of crafts revival in their respective regions, their journey as well as the lessons learnt.

It was moderated by Niyati Jigyasu, Academic and heritage researcher, Srishti Institute of Art design and technology.

The event started with a brief background context by the moderator, Niyati Jigyasu. She talked about the relevance of intangible cultural heritage also within the urban conservation context. That traditional crafts have been the driver of urban planning and economy in many historic cities and continue to be so till date and therefore, are very critical for the overall sustainability of historic areas also. Disasters can be taken as a time to rediscover traditional ways of working in the light of new possibilities emerging from digital technology, and work towards building the resilience of traditional craftsman and thus also contribute towards conservation of tangible heritage.

Navin, Piplani, President ICOMOS India welcomed the speakers and the audience and gave a brief introduction to ICOMOS, India. He also mentioned that the craftsmen community working with hand give us the motivation during this pandemic and with this webinar we stand in solidarity and support with the community. This was followed by the introduction of the ICH committee of ICOMOS, India by Mrinalini Atrey, Coordinator of NSC ICH. She highlighted NSC members working in the direction of creating a comprehensive intangible heritage inventory Format for India with a target to complete before GA 2023. This will be a important resource for all the people working within intangible heritage field. The presentors were invited next. The presentations were enriching and included diverse topics such as “the Many Shades of Disaster – Recoveries, learnings, relearnings and other matters” by **Ritu Sethi**, “a Culture of Resilience Amidst Growing Vulnerabilities: Kutch craft artisans adapting and coping in covid times” by **Sushma Iyengar**, “Building an Ecosystem for Resilience for Craft Sector in India” by **Ananya Bhattacharya**, and “Resitage: Resilient Heritage with focus on Craft communities of Kerala, India” by **Dr B Venugopal**.

During the webinar Anshikhs Jain and Sukrit Sen coordinated technical section along with Sujtha Prasad. Nandini Mukhopadhyay was the rapporteur for the occasion.

Team Members: Niyati, Sukrit, Anshika, Juhi Valia, Nandini Mukhopadhyay, Sukanya Sharma Zarna Shah and Mrinalini Atrey.



Photo as presented at the ICH Webinar



Photo courtesy: banglanatak dot com, as presented by Ms Ananya Bhattacharya at the ICH Webinar for ICOMOS

NSC - TRAINING

Coordinator: Vaishali Latkar

E-Seminar

Effectiveness of Traditional Knowledge System in Disaster Management

On 23rd & 24th Nov 2020 on ZOOM platform.
Number of Participants: 147

NSC-T An E-Seminar on Effectiveness of Traditional Knowledge System in Disaster Management was held on 23rd and 24th November 2020. It was jointly organized by ICOMOS India- Training Committee, Sinhgad College of Architecture, Pune and School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal. It was exclusively meant for the post graduate students of Heritage studies across India. The participants were benefitted by the

The objective is to train and develop skills for Disaster Management of Cultural resources through knowledge system approach.

expertise of the eminent resource persons from around the globe. The list of resource persons included Dr. Rohit Jigyasu (ICCROM, Rome, Italy), Dr. Ranit Chatterjee (Kyoto University, Japan), Dr. Rohit Ranjitkar (KVPT, Nepal), Dr. Arun Menon (IIT Madras, Chennai, India), Dr. Ram Sateesh Pasupuleti (IIT Roorkee, India), Dr. Benny Kuriakose (Chennai, India), Dr. Kim Dowon (DMUCH, Kyoto, Japan) and Ar. Vanicka Arora (Western Sydney University, Australia). Experts dealt with varied aspects of disaster management ranging from technical, socio-economical, theoretical as well as climate change.



Objective

The objective is to train and develop skills for Disaster Management of Cultural resources through knowledge system approach.

All the sessions were received very well by the participants. The program was appreciated by the participants for its organization as well as the contents and resource persons.

Collaborative Activities

NSC HISTORIC TOWNS AND VILLAGES

Coordinator: Sanghamitra Basu

EAST ZONE Representative: Ananya Bhattacharya

Webinar Series II

Resilient and Sustainable Development of Historic Precincts and Areas - Heritage Economics, Legal Tools, and Management Mechanisms: Focus West Bengal

01st & 03rd October 2020

With support from EPWG, on Zoom & Facebook Live @ 5PM IST
Number of Participants: 60-80

The webinar took a close look at the legal, administrative, and financial mechanisms that would enable economically viable and sustainable conservation of heritage precincts and areas. Day 1 was earmarked for global and national experiences. Key note speech addressed managing change in historic South East Asian

NSC-HTV & E-ZONE cities in the context of investment in heritage, people and built heritage conservation illustrated with examples of Vigan City in the Philippines, Melaka and George Town in Malaysia and then Singapore. Case studies- Ahmedabad World Heritage city and Pondicherry's heritage, discussed specific interventions by agencies and NGOs. During the panel discussion, and Q&A session, citing cases from various places of India, the discussants joined the speakers to highlight on possible development mechanism of heritage precincts. The keynote address of day 2 elaborated on various financial tools for conservation of heritage precincts and areas. The case studies, for the historic town of Serampore and on Azimganj, Murshidabad, showcased management and financial mechanisms as well as possibilities of reactivation of local pride and economy. This was followed by the panel discussion and Q&A session, and citing cases from various parts of West Bengal, the panelists along with the speakers discussed how rejuvenation can



be achieved through both tourism-oriented and community-focused activities integrating conservation with urban planning and development control.



Webinar Series III

Engaging Communities and Safeguarding ICH for Resilient and Sustainable Development of Historic Precincts and Areas

21st & 25th November 2020

With support from EPWG, on Zoom & Facebook Live @ 5PM IST
Number of Participants: 60-80;
Facebook Outreach: Nov 21 - 921, Nov 25 - 1.9K



Ananya Bhattacharya opened the webinar on 21st November sharing on ICOMOS and the inter-linkages of culture and community. Thereafter, the keynote speaker elaborated on the Nizamuddin Urban Revival Project. Case studies on engaging communities in China Town and Asansol (industrial heritage) were presented. The speakers presented on restoring heritage properties and areas through community engagement, addressing sanitation and waste disposal problems and building resilience. Examples were shared from the Srinagar conservation project, heritage restoration in Narajol Rajbari and the waste management in the Anegundi village of Hampi, Karnataka. The session was concluded with an emphasis on how the process of redevelopment of the precincts plays an important role in conservation as well as how the localised system of heritage management is the need of the hour.

The session on 25th November began with Kamalika Bose acknowledging the all-encompassing character of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH). Keynote speaker focused on connecting living heritage with sustainable development. The case studies shared on how urban cultural landscapes are rich in diversity and how community may be engaged in understanding their heritage. Experiences were shared about a community-based arts organization, Hamdasti and safeguarding ICH in Purulia of West Bengal. Examples were shared about regeneration of Kathmandu and experiences in Bardowa. The moderated panel discussion examined policies needed for ICH integration, its revitalization and integration in conservation of historic areas. Panelists shared about their experiences inculcating ICH in urban planning policies. Deliberations that emerged from Q&A sessions elucidated the need for understanding the potential of development schemes and programs by professionals and the community and its effective implementation. Progress and gaps in harnessing the potential contribution of culture in achieving the sustainable development goals were also explored - across global, national, regional and local scales.



Webinar Series IV

Resilience To Disaster, Pandemic, Climate Change In Historic Areas And Precincts

05th December 2020

With support from EPWG, on Zoom & Facebook Live @ 5PM IST
Number of Participants: 70+;
Facebook Outreach: 889

The East Zone of ICOMOS India in collaboration with the National Scientific Committee of Historic Towns and Villages and with support of Emerging Professional Working Group conducted its Fourth Webinar on the theme 'Resilience to Disaster, Pandemic, Climate Change in Historic Areas and Precincts' on 5th December 2020. Coordinator Mr Sukrit Sen set the tone of the webinar by mentioning how heritage may be mobilised for risk reduction and ensure local actions to achieve SGDs in historical precincts and areas. Dr Rohit Jigyasu, in his key note address, explained the vulnerability of urban heritage and inadequacy of planning process. He stated that transformative changes are important to make the heritage resilient.



Dr Sumana Gupta and Dr Ranit Chatterjee, shared case studies, on Ratha Yatra, Puri and Sundarbans respectively. This was followed by a panel discussion anchored by the moderator Dr Sanghamitra Basu and included Dr Repaul Kanji, Mr Sandeep Virmani and Ms Shalini Dasgupta. Idea of the resilience in the collective consciousness of the community, adaptability in coping up and living with the natural disasters, dissipation of tradition knowledge system through capacity building were some of the highlights of discussion and Q&A session. Role of a special working group of ICOMOS India towards sustainable development goals, facilitating other organizations and developing a road map for a resilient approach, was presented by Ms Shalini Dasgupta. The program concluded with summary and closing remarks by Sukrit Sen. Overall, it was a well-attended event.

EPWG News

National Representative: Saranya Dharshini

Meeting I Vision of the Newly Elected Committee

06th December 2020

On Zoom @ 11:00 AM IST

The meeting was organized by the National Representative immediately after the election results. The incoming reps had a meet and greet session ideating over the vision for the new term. Discussions were carried out to formalize a set agenda for the handover meeting. The representatives shared their vision for the new term:

Saranya Dharshini, National Representative:

Saranya Dharshini is a Conservation Architect currently practicing in Mumbai. She is the recipient of several awards, scholarships, and fellowships including the Asia Pacific UNESCO award, University of Bath - Elite Scholar, Faculty of Engineering & Architecture, and J.N. TATA scholar. She has more than 8 years international experience in architecture including working on conservation projects in India. Her published works include research on Shekhawati havelis and women and water heritage. She has keen interest in 20c heritage, cultural landscapes, and SDGs and has been actively involved in them.



Saranya's Vision: In 2020, we have witnessed the influence of digital engagement and its unparalleled use within the heritage realm especially by the emerging professionals. In hindsight, 2020 has opened up a world of opportunity to learn and grow together and bridging the intergenerational gap. We are still getting back on our feet and adapting a lifestyle and work culture different and way faster than ever before, making it essential to engage and foster inter-generational exchange of dialogues for the world we envision. India being a diverse country, it brings about different perspectives on cultural challenges and opportunities, where the EPWG plays a pivotal role through their engagement in different scientific committees and zonal activities. Carrying forward the work done by the previous representatives we envisage to achieve our objectives through short term and long-term goals in congruence with the EPWG resolutions 2020.

Our focus for the new term would be to:

- » Foster EP engagement within COMOS India at various levels including leadership, and management
- » Enable and execute Research and Outreach activities
- » Develop the Mentorship Programme
- » New Membership drive (for balanced representation from all zones)
- » Execute collaborations with NSCs, ISCs, and working groups

Being one of the largest EPWG in ICOMOS, for the first time in India we have representatives from the East and the North East zone alongside North, South, West, and Central zones. We are looking forward to inclusive collaborations with our diverse membership.

Aditi Rai – North Zone Representative:

Aditi Rai is an Architect-Planner, skilled in the areas of real estate development, spatial planning, development policies, Sustainable Development Goals & heritage economics. She is working as a Senior Design-Strategy Executive in Godrej Properties Limited, Gurugram. Aditi is a selected United Nations SDSN-Youth Local Pathways Fellow and is also the elected north-zone representative of Emerging Professional Working Group (EPWG) of ICOMOS-India. She has bagged the GICEA Gold Medal, National Awards for Excellence in Under Graduate Architectural Thesis (COA-NIASA) and is nominated for YTAA-EU Mies Award. Aditi holds Masters in Urban Planning from CEPT University with a specialization in Urban Housing, and an architecture degree from MNIT Jaipur.



Aditi's Vision: EPs have the potential to develop their skills, which will not only furnish their personal and professional growth but will also lead to building capacities within the organisation, adhering to the ICOMOS vision of maintaining scientific relevance for future generations and ensuring organisation's continuity. My vision accounts for a progressive strategy to tap and train the existing potential of the youth that will help in addressing the global challenges of climate change and SDG localisation and establish alignment with the process of equitable sustainable development & conservation.



Lakshmi R - South Zone Representative:

Lakshmi R is an architect from Madurai and currently pursuing her final year in Master of Architecture in Conservation and Regeneration at CEPT University and is also working as a student assistant at the Center for Heritage Conservation, CHC. Her first experience in conservation started with an internship at CRCI where she worked on various projects in Amritsar under the Hriday city anchor. Later, she worked as a junior architect with Beyond Built Pvt. Ltd. where she was involved in the designing and execution of an urban forest corridor in Gurgaon.

Lakshmi's Vision: South zone has a very diverse cultural heritage spread across different linguistic boundaries. I am sure that many professionals as well as enthusiasts are interested in heritage or already working for it, whom we are not aware of or vice versa. This gives a good opportunity to initiate exchange of ideas through events, striving for a goal of building sensitivity and capacity towards heritage conservation. To facilitate schools and colleges to take active participation to understand the local heritage of the place. Along with organizing and conducting events, I would also like to ensure that it reaches a wider audience and communities who are less known to us and the world.

Sukrit Sen- East Zone Representative:

Sukrit is a Heritage Manager by profession and a Musician by passion. With a Bachelor's Degree in Architecture, he recently completed his Masters in Heritage Management. Additionally, he is trained in Tabla, an Indian Percussion Instrument and has been associated with Indian Classical Music for over two decades now.



Sukrit's Vision: To involve young members from beyond the circle such as writers, artists, performers etc in heritage discourses to understand their perspective on the subject and make platforms to align them with existing scientific knowledge.



Nigar Shaikh- West Zone Representative:

Nigar Shaikh is a civil engineer with a Bachelors in Construction Technology (Hons.) from Faculty of Technology, CEPT University, Ahmedabad. She holds a MSc in Advanced Structural Analysis of Monuments and Historical Construction (SAHC), a double degree course from University of Minho, Portugal and Czech Technical University, Czech Republic. She has worked on projects like the restoration work of

City palace and Zanana Hospital in Udaipur, Laxmi Villas Palace in Vadodara, etc. She is currently working as the Conservation Laboratory In-charge at CEPT University and Research Associate at Center for Heritage Conservation (CHC), CEPT University. Her area of interest lies in risk assessment of built heritage, structural health monitoring, material characterization and working on reverse engineering of historic building materials.

Nigar's Vision: To build a more interactive platform that helps share and build knowledge. To streamline young innovative ideas and curate them to serve the conservation fraternity.

Suchita Singh- Central Zone Representative:

Suchita Singh is an Architect with a Master Degree in Architectural Conservation and heritage Management from SPA- Delhi. Currently, she is working with Ujjain Smart City Limited- CITIIS Program, as a Conservation Architect. She has been involved with the city level urban planning and developments that are focused upon sustainable development of its historical precincts at different scales whilst incorporating methodologies that are inter-disciplinary and conservation friendly. Suchita has an additional degree in Art Conservation from NRLC Lucknow (Ministry of Culture). She has worked on projects like – HRIDAY Amritsar, CSIR-ASI collaboration for heritage inventory database, INTACH supported projects etc.



Suchita's Vision: Suchita envisions to mobilize inter-institutional participations and; support and encourage the young professionals to actively participate especially in the domains of Scientific Documentation works, Architectural Heritage Conservation discourse, Conservation planning at Urban level to develop project.



Krittika Mohan- North East Zone Representative:

Krittika Mohan is a Conservation Architect belong to Sivasagar, Assam. She has completed her Master's degree in Architectural Conservation from School of Planning and Architecture New Delhi. As a fresh graduate, she was involved in documentation of Built Heritage in various locations in Assam and Meghalaya. She has also worked with INTACH, AH Division and currently practicing as a Conservation Architect with Aishwarya Tipnis Architects in New Delhi.

Krittika's Vision: Krittika envisions to encourage and promote public participation towards ICOMOS from the region of NE India.

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Meeting II
Handover from the Previous EPWG Representatives

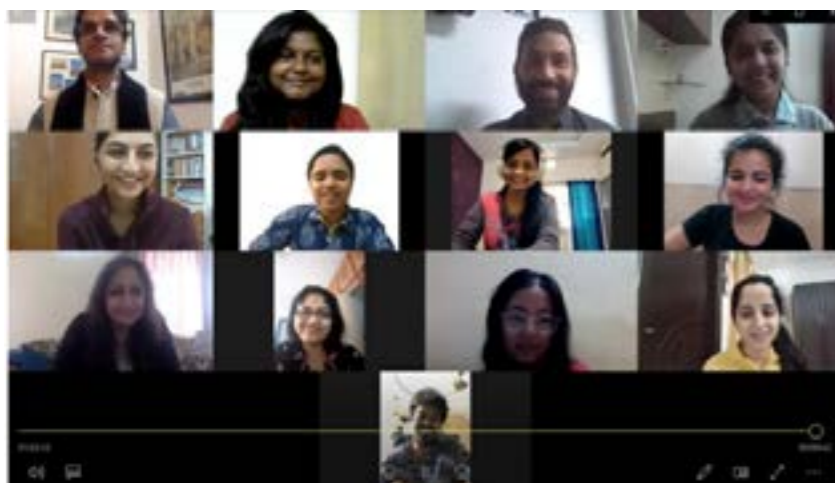
12th December 2020

On Zoom @ 11:00 AM IST

Saranya Dharshini, National Representative, EPWG ICOMOS India, called the meeting to order and appointed Aditi Rai, EPWG North Zone Representative as the Rapporteur. Meeting commenced with introduction from the EPWG incoming and outgoing representatives and the Executive Committee members of COMOS India.

The handing over procedure of the emails ids and soft copies of reports were discussed and confirmed between the outgoing and incoming representatives. Ms Khanna mentioned that she will be adding Ms. Dharshini to the EPWG Asia-Pacific informal WhatsApp group. She suggested the participation of Ms. Dharshini in the last teleconference to be organised for the outgoing reps on 19th December 2020. The Ex Com members agreed to the same.

Ms. Khanna requested the Outgoing Zonal representatives to identify incoming EPWG reps with their roles and responsibilities. She also presented the points listed in the document, highlighting the roles and responsibilities of EPWG National and Zonal Reps, which was shared with the membership during the election process.



Ms. Priyanka Singh (Treasurer) updated the members with the process of strengthening the secretariat and the availability of the additional support from the upcoming interns & the Executive Assistant for the administrative purpose as well as for the scientific / technical research and workings. Followed by this the incoming team presented their vision for the new term including call for new EPWG members, inclusive collaborations, launch of Mentorship programme, and the position paper.

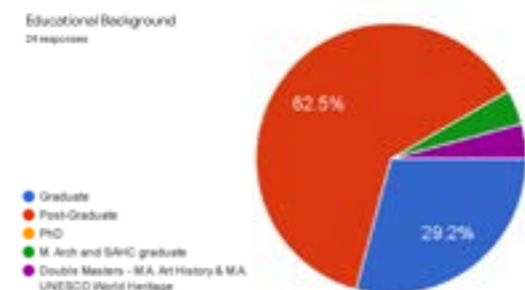
Mr. Piplani encouraged the Incoming Representatives to refer to the three documents: (1) Memorandum of Association, (2) Strategic Plan Document, and (3) ICOMOS statutes, and align their activities/ proposals with each one of them. Mr. Piplani thanked the outgoing representatives for their involvement and contribution to the last term and welcomed the incoming representatives for the upcoming term.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by Ms. Dharshini and a happy screenshot.

Meeting III
Launch of Hello EP Form

16th December 2020

On Google Doc



This activity has been formulated to help in developing an EPWG Membership Database and to plan activities for the upcoming term. The activity has been conducted through a google form called the "Hello EP" form in order to create a membership database with information on EP's educational/ professional background and expertise, NC/ ISC memberships, interested/ know-more about heritage field, proposal for new activities, and activities in which members are interested in leading for EPWG. The statistics from the Hello EP form highlights the diversity in the EPWG, encouraging the representative to tailor-make activities for the EPs.

Analytical study of the form shows a multicultural and range of expertise and enthusiasts from the heritage world. The form has been shared with all for equal participation from all members from all zones and the possibility of doing inter-zonal activities for balanced participation.

The outcome of this ongoing activity shall be to bring forth the voices of the emerging professionals on India's cultural heritage.



Events Calendar

October to December 2020

DATE	NSC / ZONE / INSTITUTE	POINT OF CONTACT	NAME OF THE EVENT
01/10/2020	NSC-HTV / East Zone	Sanghamitra Basu, Ananya Bhattacharya	A Webinar Series on 'Resilient and Sustainable Development of Historic Precincts and Areas: Focus Area West Bengal
03/10/2020			
31/10/2020	NSC-ICH ICOMOS India	Niyati Jigyasu, Dr Mrinalini Atrey	A Webinar Series on Crafting Resilience
01/11/2020	ICOMOS India	ICOMOS India	Special General Meeting 2020
23/11/2020	NSC-T / Sinhgad College Of Architecture, Pune / School Of Planning And Architecture, Bhopal	Vaishali Latkar, Vishakha Kawathekar	An E-Seminar on Effectiveness of Traditional Knowledge System in Disaster Management
24/11/2020			
21/11/2020	NSC-HTV / East Zone	Sanghamitra Basu, Ananya Bhattacharya	A Webinar Series on Engaging Communities and Safeguarding ICH for Resilient and Sustainable Development of Historic Precincts and Areas
25/11/2020			
27/11/2020	ICOMOS India	NSC Counsellor - Dr Arun Menon	National Scientific Committee Conclave 2020
28/11/2020			
05/12/2020	NSC-HTV / East Zone	Sanghamitra Basu, Ananya Bhattacharya	Resilience to Disaster, Pandemic, and Climate Change in Historic Precincts and Areas



Photo courtesy: banglanatak dot com, as presented by Ms Ananya Bhattacharya at the ICH Webinar for ICOMOS



Photo courtesy: banglanatak dot com, as presented by Ms Ananya Bhattacharya

Members' Corner

BY PROF AGK MENON

New Paradigms for Conserving Cultural Heritage in India

December 2020, when news about the imminent demolition of the dormitories in the campus of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIMA) designed by Louis Kahn and built between 1962-74, emerged in the public domain, it generated considerable national and international furor. It galvanized the National Scientific Committee on 20th century architecture (NSC20C) of ICOMOS India to draft a formal Heritage Alert, which was adopted by the international ICOMOS. More than the first institutional Indian initiative to save modern architectural heritage, it also marked a rare coming together of diverse interest groups, professional and non-professional, national and international, that should be celebrated and built upon.

In the narrative of the Indian conservation movement, ICOMOS India is a recent event. It was formally established only in 2012, but unlike the older protagonists in the movement, who were primarily focusing on conserving the historical cultural legacy, ICOMOS India, through NSC20C, acted swiftly to prevent the desecration of an iconic example of 20th century architecture. This initiative marked an important step in the evolution of the conservation movement in India, as much for drawing attention

to significant contemporary architecture, but also because the IIMA management responded positively to this strategy of saving cultural heritage by agreeing to reconsider its plans to demolish the dormitories.

Heritage conservation is a growing profession in India and its contributions to the built environment are being increasingly acknowledged in the public domain through numerous examples of laudable conservation projects. But professionals engaged in these projects have generally been driven by the desire to achieve individual excellence rather than the larger issues facing the profession.

Thus the silence of the conservation movement in the face of specific events like IIMA was not surprising because professionals are unable to see the forest for the trees. The initiative of ICOMOS India to draw public attention to the destruction of heritage buildings has the potential to change this paradigm. This is because, though its membership is drawn from the same intellectual gene pool of the quotidian conservation movement in India, it is structured and operates differently. It has followed the template of the parent body by setting up 21 National Scientific Committees (NSCs) that, systematically and in a focused manner, have begun to engage with the diverse range of examples and issues relating to the country's cultural heritage; thus NSC20C deals with the 20th century architecture. Besides this elaborate template, its operating procedures and culture also draws upon, and is backed by, the credibility and gravitas of its international parent. For these reasons it has the potential to be a change agent to reinvigorate a conservation movement that was fast becoming overwhelmed and sidelined both by the aspirational dynamics of a transforming society and the equally aggressive governmental and institutional interventions to upgrade the built environment.

As matters stand, ICOMOS India recognizes this potential and has set itself up to be the premier interlocutor in the conservation scene in India. It does this by claiming to be the authentic voice and interpreter of the international Conservation Charters and guidelines. The link with international canons and authority is strong and it is assiduously cultivated: for example, the IIMA heritage Alert was addressed to ICOMOS International for its certification and due action. Riding piggyback on the international entity to gain local credibility is however not without its pitfalls. The objective of this short article is therefore to critically examine the

institutional teleology of ICOMOS India and evaluate in what manner it could contribute to the conservation movement in India.

The propensity to align our conservation policies and strategies to international canons and models in order to resolve local issues is deeply embedded in our collective professional psyche. This is the debilitating characteristic of the intellectual gene pool I referred to earlier. It has been argued that its roots were laid by colonial education and governance (cf, Thomas Babington Macaulay's 1835 Minute on Education), but it continues to be diligently nurtured by contemporary academic pedagogy, and is insidiously spurred by the forces of cultural and economic globalization. In no small measure, this process is also being reinforced by ubiquitous communication technologies. As a result, professionals in India tragically fail to read, understand and interpret indigenous contexts to theorize and resolve local issues, but instead seek international models and expertise to resolve the problems of the local built environments. The absence of intellectual self-reflexivity in the discipline that this process displays is the blind-side of the conservation movement in India and the role of ICOMOS India must be viewed from this problematic perspective.

The inherent diversity built into its institutional structure will certainly enable it to engage with several local heritage issues in a context-specific manner and thus overcome the generic propensity to reflexively seek answers from external contexts. Also, among the 21 NSCs it has set up is, for example, the NSC-Theophil, which is expected to focus on the Theory and Philosophy of Conservation and Restoration. As a member of NSC-Theophil, I know that its intentions are honorable, but so far, its progress has been indifferent. Perhaps this is due to the fact that the inability to practice self-reflexivity in theorizing is very deeply embedded in the minds of

conservation professionals and manifests itself as a routine even among questing individuals. For example, on a personal note, I was struck by the depressing thought while preparing to deliver a talk on urban conservation recently. I realized that for decades, at similar conferences, I had been covering much the same ground over and over again. Perhaps at conferences we expect to talk to others like us, a miniscule minority in our diverse society, while the majority, our putative clients, the potential targets of our services – civil society, politicians and civic administrators, including other professionals engaged with habitat issues – are actually listening to and responding to other imperatives and advice. This was apparent because though the subject we discussed was our common heritage, the language we used (“authenticity”, “integrity”, etc.) and the values we espoused (“shared heritage”, “pass on to the next generation”, etc.), were understood by others, our clients, as “preservation” not “conservation”, and therefore, it was seen by them as a hinderance to development. Our vocabulary and grammar focused on the past, while they wanted to hear the language of the future. I think that to overcome such miscommunications is one of the challenges confronting NSC-Theophil.

As an academic I have also noted a similar disengagement between the classroom and the field. What is taught and what is actually mediating the state of the built heritage appear to be following different trajectories – one follows the canons of international conservation ideologies and best practices, while the other the dynamics of an aspirational society leveraging an antediluvian system of urban governance to its advantage. These are pedagogic issues that academic should not be avoiding. But again, while moderating a conference on Conservation Pedagogy and Research at a well-known academic institution I was struck by the failure of conservation education to address it. At this conference

I found that all the pedagogic innovations and research topics that were discussed were derived from publications (perhaps the mandatory “literature survey” contributes to this bias) of work being conducted in foreign institutions, and nothing was derived from the analysis of the local context. Of course, it seemed sufficient to them that all the textual learning was duly “Indianized” by the scholars to suit the local context, but it is such derivative processes of knowledge formations that leads to the breakdown of communications between the professional and society, and between the objectives of conservation as taught in the classroom and the imperatives of development demanded in the field. Under the circumstances, whether the profession is leading educational pedagogy or the other way around is not relevant, because in either case the blind are leading the blind: this is the dilemma confronting the Indian conservation movement and also, I am afraid, NSC-Theophil.

To purposefully confront this dilemma will be difficult for ICOMOS India. After all, in institutional terms, it is linked to international ICOMOS through an umbilical cord, but for peculiarly circumstantial reasons it is ICOMOS India: therein I see the opportunity to define its local agendas. In the abstract, the stated objective of ICOMOS India is to bring “the Indian viewpoint arising from our contextual issues and solutions found therein (both theory and practice) while also learning from international experience”. But in reality, this is largely rhetorical because the stated objectives do not get translated as intended in practice and it continues to pursue, with great fidelity, the international expectations. This was apparent while drafting the Heritage Alert on the demolition of the IIMA dormitories, because at each step of the process it sought conformity with the international template. The challenge confronting ICOMOS India, therefore, is not to deny its lineage, and the responsibility that



Photo courtesy: Jon Page

Conserving the significant examples of modern architecture in India can offer many lessons to the conservation movement in India, but it has not received the kind of attention that historic monuments have received. Few, architects in India consider the important benchmarks of contemporary architecture as a category of heritage worthy of protection. Arguably, this elision reflects a broader professional antipathy towards conserving the country's cultural heritage in general which, in no small measure, has contributed to the depletion of the cultural heritage of the country. Therefore it is noteworthy that in

this entails, but to also take into account the compelling and pragmatic needs that underpinned IIMA's initial decision to demolish the dormitories, and define the middle ground.

The facts are that the IIMA is widely acknowledged as a masterpiece of 20th Century architecture, but locally, it is not legally protected. Over the years, it was very badly maintained and so it is in considerable distress and disrepair. It was under the circumstances, the IIMA management, intended to demolish and reconstruct the dormitories and other buildings in the campus, even though it was aware of its architectural significance. Though the management has for the present agreed to keep that decision in abeyance, what it does in future is not known. The IIMA alumni, who are an elite and very successful group of professionals in their respective fields, are influential stakeholders in IIMA affairs, and they are notably ambivalent about its architectural legacy. While there are voices in support of examining the conservation option, others are often more vociferous about getting rid of the old and constructing new dormitories, commensurate with the institute's "international brand image" and in consideration of the humongous fees the students pay to study at IIMA. The battle is typically between "ours" and "their" perceptions about the value of architectural legacy and how it should be dealt with. This, as any conservation professional will aver, is the ubiquitous characteristic of the problem of conservation in India. Is ICOMOS India intellectually and professionally prepared to mediate the outcome of this dilemma?

A similar dilemma defines the issues regarding the Redevelopment of Central Vista project. The project has been gestating in the public domain for over a year and construction work has already begun, but ICOMOS India has not yet prepared a formal Heritage Alert, let alone engage in discourse with

either the project proponents or other putative stakeholders. The government is brazenly ignoring all urban planning, urban design, landscape architecture and urban conservation norms and protocols by making clear its intention to impose a contentious vision of "modern India" on this internationally acknowledged heritage precinct and a substantial section of civil society supports this process. Thus, here too, as in IIMA, there is a profound conflict between conservation ideals professed by ICOMOS India and other conservation professionals, and the intentions of the project proponents. Therefore, the question that I am posing is this: How should ICOMOS India respond to the ideological provocations of these projects present? Is it prepared to advocate, as its stated objective puts it, "the Indian viewpoint arising from our contextual issues and solutions found therein (both theory and practice) while also learning from international experience" or will it reiterate international orthodoxy, as it is predisposed to parrot, on account of the intellectual history of the conservation movement? These are not isolated projects, because as India develops, there will be many more similar conflicts that it will have to resolve in future. Will the commitment and loyalty to its institutional genealogy help or be a hinderance?

The way forward, in a country like India, with its abundant legacy of cultural heritage, but confronting the immense pressures to transform the built environment, will be for ICOMOS India to establish, sui generis, the parameters and protocols of conserving cultural heritage. For example, at IIMA, it needs to explain how to upgrade the dormitory buildings while still retaining the cultural significance of Louis Kahn's design. Similarly at Central Vista, it will need to define the permissible limits of change to upgrade an aging heritage precinct and accommodate new buildings for government use. This, typically, is the objective of conservation – how

to accommodate change in heritage buildings and historic urban precincts. But there will be other instances where the principles of preservation will be more appropriate, and in still others, where demolition might be the appropriate option. To decide where one strategy is appropriate and where another, is the challenge confronting the conservation movement in India, and ICOMOS India must locate its role within that framework.

The insights that the IIMA and Central Vista case studies provide are that there is a no 'one size fits all' solution – or ideology – to the problems of conserving the cultural heritage the country. In 2004, that vision underpinned the drafting of INTACH's Charter for the Conservation of Unprotected Architectural Heritage and Sites in India. ICOMOS India can take it forward and that would provide a more appropriate road map to reinvigorate the conservation movement in India.

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BY MS NUPUR PROTHI
KHANNA

Board Member, ICOMOS International Council on Monuments and Sites, by Election



Dear Colleagues of ICOMOS India,

Thank you to each member for your support and encouragement for the election of an India member to the ICOMOS International Board. We, each one of us, has been diligently working towards making a difference, directly or indirectly, in the fields of heritage, sustainability and climate action. ICOMOS India was able to showcase our contribution at the 19th General Assembly and symposium on 'Heritage and Democracy' in Delhi in 2017, the last physical General Assembly held since. As a member of the Board for a period of 3 years, I have an opportunity to contribute to the way this organisation, our profession(s) is perceived around the world. I hope to foster newer relationships with fellow professionals and institutions working in related fields of community-led conservation, nature-based efforts, and innovation related to understanding our past to address our future. Having been part of many emerging professional programmes in the past I look towards this group within our membership to play a critical role and undertake the responsibility to co steer the organisation towards its goal.

As a Board member, I am required to abstain from meetings that will discuss issues related directly to India or ICOMOS India in but I look to each of you to guide, advice and share your concerns and thoughts as and when needed. If there is any way that I can be of any as-

sistance please do contact me promptly. On the occasion of International Women's day, I recognise how fortunate it is to work with the first woman President at ICOMOS and be part of a group of committed female professionals who represent their particular regions in this global organisation. I hope to contribute to their journey and learn from them. As a group of professionals, we look to your support for cooperation, collaboration and working for greater recognition of the work of our institution, our profession in safeguarding our past to innovate and guide our uncertain future.

To each of you, wish us luck and support us in our work!

BY PROF KIRAN JOSHI

Secretary General, ISC 20C Heritage, by Election



Kiran Joshi, a senior member who established ICOMOS India's NSC20C in 2013, was elected as Secretary General, ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Twentieth Century Heritage (ISC20C) for the term 2020-23. Beginning with her work on Chandigarh, she has been focusing on identification, interpretation and promotion of the values of the varied Modern Heritage of India, including documenting, publishing and lecturing for almost 25 years now. She joined the ISC20C in 2005 and aims to achieve the following during her term: (i) Expand the ISC20C Membership Base, with special focus on underrepresented regions and countries, (ii) Enable and sustain participation of Emerging Professionals in Bureau functioning, (iii) Establish and maintain close liaison with all National Committees for disseminating information on objectives

and activities of ISC20C, (iv) Promote the establishment of NSC20Cs within National Committees and, (v) Promote exchange between various National Scientific Committees through collaborative thematic studies, webinars, and, other social media activities.

BY MS PRIYANKA SINGH

Resolutions Committee Member, 20th Icomos General Assembly



Priyanka Singh was appointed to the Resolutions Committee of the ICOMOS General Assembly 2020. The work of the Committee started in September 2020, on receipt of draft resolutions from the ICOMOS Membership and Bodies. The months of September to December were dedicated to drafting, negotiation and consultation. During this time, the Resolutions Committee met virtually in 10 meetings and in several negotiations virtually and through emails.

As mentioned in the report of the ICOMOS Resolutions Committee 2020, "The role of the Resolutions Committee is to examine, coordinate and evaluate the draft resolutions presented, in order to obtain a balance in substance and in form. Toward this aim, the Resolutions Committee may discuss the need of the draft resolution and its text with the proponents. The work of the Committee is guided by Articles 44, 57 and 58 of the Rules of Procedure.

14 draft resolutions were received from the membership and from ICOMOS Bodies. In its coordination task, the Resolutions Committee negotiated with

Contd. from page 17

the proponents concerning the extent to which the relevant actions proposed were within the competence of ICOMOS, as well as with the Treasurer and the International Secretariat on the implications that the proposed actions would have on human and financial resources. These negotiations resulted in refinements and in some cases substantial changes to the initial texts."

All the final Resolutions were adopted by the 2020 General Assembly through a majority vote.

BY DR HARVEEN BHANDARI

Paper Publication in Scopus Indexed Journal, October 2020



The research paper titled- 'A Naturalistic Inquiry of Pilgrims' Experience at a Religious Heritage

Site: The Case of a Shaktipitha in India' authored by Dr. Harveen Bhandari, co-authored by Dr. Amit Mittal, was published in a reputed peer-reviewed academic journal "International Journal of Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage".

The paper focusses on pilgrim experience at a cultural heritage site that is a living religious heritage. Religion holds a special place in the lives of Indians. Pilgrims travel to different religious sites spread across the country and an intimate bonding exists between people and religious sites that invariably constitute their heritage. Pilgrims at a religious site perform rituals and their involvement in different ritualistic activities adds to their spiritual experience. This study investigated the pilgrims experience at a religious heritage site using a suitable

framework called ASEB framework wherein activity, setting, experience and benefit were analysed. Certain salient parameters evaluated the pilgrim experience at a Goddess temple called Naina Devi Shaktipitha, located in Himachal Pradesh, India. The authors did intensive qualitative research on site for three years (2015-2018) and interviewed different stakeholders. The study provides a deeper insight into various parameters that affect the spiritual experiences and also opens up opportunities for future research in the field of religious studies that can improve the most important journey, called pilgrimage, undertaken to attain salvation.

BY MS SARANYA DHARSHINI

Chapter Published in the Book 'Water Heritage', December 2020



Ms Dharshini's article in the Chapter on "Role of Women in Subterranean Waterscapes of India", in the book "Water Heritage, Global Perspectives for Sustainable Development", edited by Dr. Tino Mager, was published by Cultural Assets Bureau of the Ministry of Culture, Taiwan in December, 2020. The article presents the stepwells in Gujarat focusing on the significance of the patronage of women and gender perspective in water heritage.



Photo courtesy: banglanatak dot com, an image of Madhubani art as presented by Ms Ananya Bhattacharya at the ICH Webinar for ICOMOS

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Jigna Desai, Institutional Representative, ICOMOS India
Lipika Khanna, Research Intern, ICOMOS India

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ADDRESS

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

