RE-launch of IHCN Newsletter

It gives us great pleasure to re-launch the third issue of In-heritance, the Indian Heritage Cities Network Newsletter.

ABOUT IHCNF

As you may recall, the Indian Heritage Cities Network was founded in September 2006 at an international conference held in Jaipur. Having been established with the endorsement of the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India, the Network now comprises thirty two Indian member cities, seven French city and regional partners, several university and institutional members and several NGO partners. The Network provides a platform for sharing experience and expertise and for the sustainable socio-economic and cultural development of India’s historic cities.

Through this newsletter our aim is to create a medium to exchange information, present best practices, highlight events, give different points of view, to offer good ideas and to discuss the challenges related to the preservation, management and sustainable use of urban heritage in India in the face of the enormous challenges created by the rapid change of India’s urban environment.

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Special Feature

Inaugural Speech of the Union Minister Shri. M Venkaiah Naidu at the Heritage Cities Conference in New Delhi

Under the aegis of HRIDAY the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India, IHCNF and UNESCO New Delhi jointly organized the Heritage Cities Conference on 6th and 7th October 2016 at the India International Centre, New Delhi. The theme of the conference was ‘Sacred Geography of Spiritual Cities’ which brought together several eminent speakers from HRIDAY Cities, professionals working in India and the sub-continent. The conference aimed to understand the connection between conceptual framework of spirituality and the underlying physical structure of settlements. The Conference was inaugurated by Shri M Venkaiah Naidu, Union Minister for Urban Development, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation and Information & Broadcasting, Government of India.

The Honorable Union Minister for Urban Development, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation and Information & Broadcasting addressed the audience and said as follows:

“Our country is blessed with huge treasure of both tangible and intangible heritage assets. We have a fascinating diversity of language unlike anywhere in the world with 78 spoken languages and approximately 90 different cultural, classical and folk dances which is the beauty of the country. UNESCO has recognized 32 World Heritage sites, both cultural and natural, India is ranked fifth in the World and second in Asia in number of heritage sites.

The cultural, historical, religious heritage attracts millions of tourists every year. In the year 2013, India had 69 lakh foreign tourists and 114 crores domestic tourists. The contribution of tourism sector in the nation’s GDP in 2013 amounted to Rs 2 lakh crore which is 6.6% of GDP. Tourism being a powerful economy can have a huge impact on the local economy and can bring new opportunities for heritage tourists. Heritage tourists are highest yielding tourists spending 34% longer per day than traditional tourists.

However, in the present context heritage management has often been carried out with isolation and without linkages in the urban planning process. Further, we have been too monument centric in our approach. Consequently heritage areas are often neglected and overcrowded with inadequate basic services and infrastructure including lack of awareness of historic values. Given this, urban development can play an important role in integration of tourism development and heritage, as their role cannot be negated. The Government is intending to address the above mentioned issues.

Ministry of Urban Development has launched the National Heritage Development Yojana (HRIDAY), first such mission dedicated to the heritage tourism oriented urban development with a duration of 4 years ending with 2018 and an outlay of Rs. 500 crores. The scheme is being implemented in 12 cities namely Ajmer, Amaravati, Amritsar, Badami, Dwarka, Gaya, Kanchipuram, Mathura, Puri, Varanasi and Velankanni. Every city has its own rich cultural heritage.

Sikhism originated in the holy city of Amritsar in Punjab, famous for Golden temple. Varanasi also called as Benaras where Lord Buddha visited in 500 BC is the oldest city in the world today. The Mahabodhi temple at Bodhgaya is one of the few surviving examples of brick architecture in India. Velankanni is home to significant Catholic shrine where Virgin Mary is said to have appeared to a shepherd. The famous Ajmer Sharif dargah is known for attracting millions of devotees seeking blessings of the Sufi saint. The beauty of Ajmer is that it is not confined to a religion and lots of pilgrims are Hindus. Mathura, the birth place of Lord Krishna or Brag Bhoomi is one of the seven cities ‘saptapuri’ considered holy by Hindus. Kanchipuram one of the seven Indian cities which achieved attainment ancient cities is the holy pilgrimage city for Shaivismites as well as Vaishnavites which is also famous for Kanchi Peet. Badami is known for rock-cut and structured temples with 18 inscriptions.

Amaravati is known to be the abode of Lord Indra and also known as the land of immortals. The new capital of Andhra Pradesh is also named after Amaravati. Warangal capital of Kakatiya dynasty again left many monuments an, impressive stone gateway where there is a 1000 pillared temple. Puri is a holy land of Lord Jagannatha. Dwarka is one of the famous pilgrimage site.

The scheme is one of its kinds and led the Ministry to develop a robust process. HRIDAY City Mission Directorates were formed and City Anchors were appointed. City HRIDAY plans were prepared for each heritage city. City HRIDAY Plan is a area based planning document which identifies infrastructure gaps and other issues. The final plan identifies a shelf of projects to be implemented through the scheme. To maintain the unique character of cities every City HRIDAY plan should include city specific heritage cells to design the toolkit. The toolkit includes design specifications, street furniture, broad urban design guidelines etc. A total of 33 projects worth Rs. 228 crores has been sanctioned*.

“Peaceful coexistence and living in harmony is the ‘Sanskriti’ of our nation and any planning process should keep in mind NATURE, CULTURE AND FUTURE. We should all strive towards REFORM PERFORM and TRANSFORM”
Under HRIDAY programme of Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India, Zero Waste Management system for Badami has been approved for implementation. As such a three day sensitization workshop was held on 1st, 2nd and 3rd December 2016 at Badami to introduce the concept of Integrated and sustainable Solid and Liquid Resource management in Badami town and sensitize the self-help groups to be involved in implementing the project. The 3 days workshop included a day of site visit. The different stakeholders who were invited and attended the workshop included: The President Town Municipal Council Badami, Tahsildar Badami, Councillors, The Town Municipal Council Officials, the line departments within Badami, Health Department, Commercial shop owner’s association, Restaurant owners, local representatives, Local SHGs and all the low-income groups who may be interested in working in Zero waste management did participate in the workshop.

Because of the sensitization workshop, the SLRM concept of Solid Waste Management was appreciated by all and the local representatives and councilors agreed to support the application of the same in Badami. More than 400 applications for working in the SLRM concept of waste management was received by TMC Badami from members of different SHGs and local people. Badami is likely to be one of the very few zero waste management towns in India after implementation of this project.

In 2015, the Government of India appointed IHCNF as City Anchor for Badami in Karnataka and as partnering City Anchor for Amaravati in Andhra Pradesh and Ajmer in Rajasthan for HRIDAY. As city HRIDAY anchor, IHCNF is responsible for planning, advising and supporting the city mission directorate at the city level for successful implementation of the scheme.

Under direct coordination with GoI and support of City Mission Directorate (CMD) and City Level Advisory and Monitoring Committee (CLAMC), IHCNF undertook the preparation of the City HRIDAY Plan of Badami, and coordinated the preparation of the approved DPR’s in consultation with the State Nodal agency.

1 IHCN officer is posted full time at Badami as per the MOU signed between MoUD and IHCNF as well as a part time Director (Project). IHCNF would be involved in monitoring the execution of work under the HRIDAY Scheme.

The approved DPR’s for Badami under HRIDAY included:

1) Proposal for Sullage Treatment in Tattakote village
2) Integrated Development and Improvement of Arterial Road, Transportation Infrastructure, Parking and Road Signage
3) Improvement of Historic, Vernacular Building Fascade and Streetscape
4) Solid Waste Management System for Badami Town (ZWM)

IHCNF revised the DPR for addressing the issue of sullage in Tattakote village in Badami which was adversely impacting the historic Agastya Teertha tank and protected temples.

The total approved project funding for implementation in Badami as of 1st October 2016 is Rs 18.66 Crore

As of 16th January 2017, bids have been invited for Integrated Development and Improvement of Arterial Road project and Construction of Underground drainage system and wash Penn at Tattakote village and old town area.
**PREPARATION OF HERITAGE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The IHCNF team initiated the work on mapping and listing of tangible and intangible heritage of Bikaner on 19th August 2016.

The 'Built Heritage Listing' has been done to document the fast disappearing rich heritage and to support its conservation and protection by generating public awareness and to support tourism. The mapping of heritage assets in Bikaner city divided into two parts: Within the walled city, and in the extensions beyond it.

The Bikaner city fabric with its historic core (walled city with Haveli architecture) as well as fort, palaces and water resources in terms of wells, bagichis and lakes, religious buildings for religious tourism and rural excursions have been marked as major heritage/tourism assets to the city.

The listing, mapping and preparation of base map was completed by 17th September 2016.. Work on identifying the infrastructure gaps and documentation of different types of heritage in town has been completed along with preliminary shelf of Heritage based infrastructure projects. The Initial/Preliminary Project report prepared and submitted to Bikaner Municipal Council on 26th December 2016 for feedback.

A stakeholder consultation meeting was held on 17th and 18th of January 2017. The Heritage Committee of the City of Bikaner headed by Collector Bikaner deliberated on the proposal prepared by IHCNF and made certain suggestions. The Heritage Resource Management Plan is under finalization.

**DUNGARPUR**

The IHCNF technical team headed by Conservation Architect initiated the work on mapping and listing of tangible and intangible heritage of Dungarpur on 26th March 2016.

The listing, mapping, preparation of base map was been completed by 25th April 2016. Initial/Preliminary Project report submitted to Dungarpur Municipal Council at the end of Phase 1 on 5th November 2016 for feedback.

A stakeholder consultation meeting under the Chairmanship of District Collector of Dungarpur was held on 1st December 2016 at the Collectorate Office which was attended by representatives of IHCNF. Discussions held to take feedback on the shelf of heritage infrastructure projects.
IHCNF initiated the preparation of HRMP’s for 10 heritage villages for the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department. The basic purpose was to conserve the culture of these villages, identify threats to the same and work out mechanisms for its protection and enhancement.

Through this project tourism is to be used as a tool for local growth, spreading awareness among outsiders, and creating employment for inmates of the villages. Giving tourism a positive direction is an important objective of the programme.

Resource strengthening of the village in terms of Natural, Cultural, Material and Intangible Heritage is to be carried out.

A stakeholder consultation meeting was held on 29th November 2016 at Mysore followed by a visit to all villages starting 5th June 2016. The reconnaissance survey of 10 villages from Malkhed in the Northeast to Talakadu in the southeast has combined the findings during the visits with research on various topics related to the history, geography, architecture, infrastructure, hopes and aspirations of the people during the visits to these villages.

Preliminary Investigation Reports of the ten villages of Banavasi, Bellagavi, Aihole, Halebeedu, Melukote, Nagavi, Sannati, Lakkundi, Malkhed and Talakkad was submitted to the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) Department, Government of Karnataka which is to be followed by a Masons Training Programme in Traditional Conservation Techniques in February 2017.

Government of India has issued the frequency allotment for establishing a Community Radio Station for Culture at Mysore. IHCN has applied for Standing Advisory Committee on (Radio) Fréquency Allocation ( SACFA) clearance on 27th October 2016.

The release of funds is awaited from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for purchase of equipments under CRS.

For this IHCNF has applied for mandatory registration with the NGO Darpan portal for securing funds under the Centre.

IHCNF has undertaken the preparation of Perspective Plan for the Royal Deccan Tourist Circuit proposed under Swadesh Darshan following signing of contract on 18.06.16 between District Administration Bidar and IHCNF. The plan aims to develop Bidar-Basavakalyan-Gulbarga-Bijapur-Badami-Aihole-Pattadakal and Hampi under Royal Deccan Heritage Tourist circuit in an integrated, planned and prioritized manner.

A presentation was made to the Tourism Minister on this on 24th October 2016 and to the Bidar Deputy Commissioner on 18th November 2016.

A Memorandum of Understanding between IHCNF and the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore was signed on 29th November 2016.

This MOU was initiated following initial discussions that helped realize the potential of using Space observation/ Satellite technology for the study of the archaeological site and historic cities in India.

The expertise of NIUA in the use satellite technology and IHCNFs ground work in historic cities would mutually benefit and complement each other.

Studying and rehabilitating the Karez / Qanat in different parts of India, Organising training for trainers (TOT) for Indian experts in cooperation with ICQHS, Providing technical support for carrying out a comprehensive study on the karez/ qanats in India, Holding an international conference on Indian qanats in Karnataka and / or elsewhere in India and Investigating and translating the historical documents found in India from Persian to English language.
International Conference on ‘Karez on Cultural Borders’, October 2017

IHCNF will jointly organize an International conference on ‘Karez on Cultural Borders’ in India in collaboration with ICQHS Yazd, Iran and UNESCO Delhi. It is expected to be the first such conference to be held in India. The venue and date to be finalized in consultation with partners and will be informed in due course through the IHCNF website and newsletter.

The main objectives of the conference are to:
- Echoing the essential message of qanat/karez on cooperation, peace and reconciliation
- Identify intercultural interactions regarding qanat/karez technology
- Examine different aspects of cooperation and social convergence in qanat/karez
- Explore historical records and archeological evidence on the geographical diffusion of qanat in world and the role of nations in spreading qanats/karez
- Portray qanat/karez as a bonding string going through different nations at the grass root level
- Understand the operation and maintenance mechanism.

The conference is intended to bring together the different pieces of the existing knowledge on Indian Karez. This event would help bring together all the scholars who have so far studied on this system in India but also elsewhere in the world and pool their knowledge and experiences.

Logo Design Competition for Heritage Cities Development Network Society (HCDNS)

A competition has been announced for designing a logo for the Heritage Development Network Society. The competition was open to students of School of Planning and Architecture in New Delhi, Bhopal and Vijayawada. The last date for the entries was January 7th 2016.

Board of Trustees Meeting of IHCNF and HCDNS

The 19th Board of Trustee (BoT) meeting of the IHCN and 3rd BoT meeting of the Heritage Cities Network Development Society (HCDNS) was held in Bangalore on 20th December 2016.

Interested in Internship with IHCNF?

IHCNF intends to hire highly potential competent candidates as Interns. Interested candidates may apply by email to info@ihcn.in

For More Information

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