



Newsletter of Indian Heritage Cities Network Foundation (IHCNF)



In – Heritance

For the Future of Our Cities

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From IHCNF Desk in Bangalore

We wish to thank our readers for their encouraging feedback to the re-launch of the IHCNF's Newsletter. Through the newsletter, we hope to continue to keep you informed about our monthly activities on a regular basis.

Last month we renewed our effort for an extension and renewal of IHCNF's MoU with Government of Karnataka for which the Chairman of IHCNF Dr. M. Ramachandran had called upon the Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka Dr. Subhash Chandra Kuntia on 20th December 2016.

Chairman of IHCNF Dr. M. Ramachandran met Mr Shigeru Aoyagi Director & UNESCO Representative to India on 20th February 2017 to discuss the modalities of working together in the heritage sector in India.

Earlier this month, IHCNF came out with the conference proceedings of the Heritage Cities Conference on 'Sacred Geography of Spiritual Cities' held on 6th and 7th October 2016 at New Delhi.

IHCNF is in the final stages of the preparation of Heritage Management Plan for Bikaner & Dungarpur following the completion of stakeholder consultations in the respective cities. The final HMP is expected to be submitted to the Government of Rajasthan by end of March 2017.

In this month's newsletter we are happy to include a special feature on IHCNF's research work on the historic water system of Bijapur or Vijayapura in Karnataka and also highlight the implementation of HRIDAY scheme in the city of Ajmer.

We wish our readers an enjoyable read and look forward to your continued feedback.

SPECIAL MENTION



Jammu & Kashmir State Government's Lifetime Achievement Award in the field of Heritage Conservation awarded to Mr Saleem Beg, Trustee IHCNF

IHCNF is pleased to share with our readers the news of Jammu and Kashmir Government honoring Mr Muhammad Saleem Beg with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions towards heritage. Mr Saleem Beg has been in IHCNF Board of Trustee since its inception. He is the Convener, INTACH, J&K and Former Member and Chairperson, National Monuments Authority. Earlier he was recipient of 2009 INTACH-State National Award for heritage conservation.

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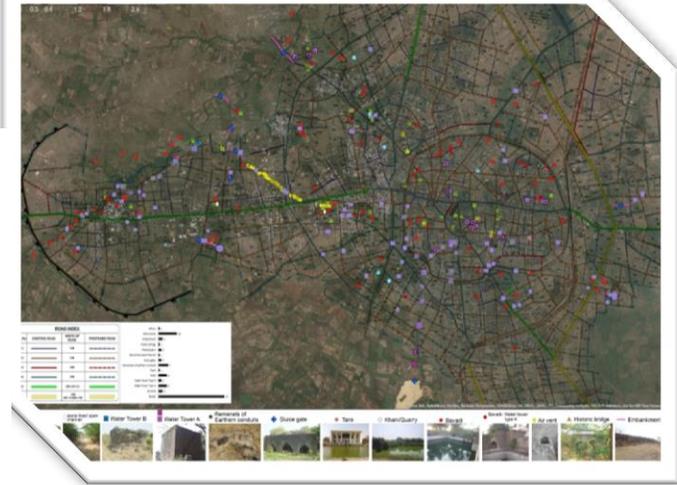
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SPECIAL FEATURE

The Historic Water Network of Vijayapura, Karnataka

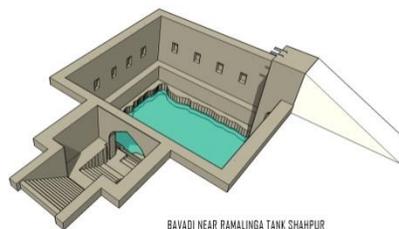
In 2015, the District Administration of Vijayapura (earlier Bijapur) took the first step towards initiating the revival of the ancient subterranean water system also called the 'Karez' that had once existed for supply of water in Vijayapura. Following this in 2016 the District Administration took the technical assistance of IHCNF to carry out technical studies and investigations required to restore and revive the ancient water network of Vijayapura including the Karez. The aim was to consider the rehabilitation and revitalization of the city's historic/traditional water system and addressing the key environmental and water related issues to realize its full potential for revival which can have long term benefits for the local people in Vijayapura and the city's economy as well (By IHCNF Desk).



Vijayapura was one of the early capitals of the five Muslim ruled medieval kingdoms of the Deccan Sultanates which included Golkonda, Ahmednagar, Bidar, and Berar of south-central India. The Bijapur Sultanate was ruled by the Adil Shahi dynasty from 1490 to 1686. Under the Adil Shahis Bijapur developed into a cosmopolitan city and art, architecture, literature and music flourished. Historically water played a very important role in the establishment and sustenance of Bijapur. Water was brought to the habitations and was one of the most extensive systems of urban water supply constructed in the latter half of the 16th century. This water system is unique for water conservation and management and was thus historically able to fulfill the water needs of Vijayapura city. There was plentiful distribution of tanks or reservoir, large number of step wells or Bavadis, open wells, water towers, a subterranean water system or Karez together with earthen conduits and open channels. However this historic water system of Vijayapura has been disrupted over time. Over the years the reservoirs continued to exist though their connections have been lying completely ruined or out of repair for nearly 200 years. Rapid urbanization in the last few decades has resulted in complete annihilation of the historic water system which today mostly lies buried underground without use or efforts towards their revival, in spite of its potential to relieve some of the water scarcity problem being faced by modern Vijayapura. The numerous stepped wells or Bavadis built during the Adil Shahi era have long been neglected due to which they have been converted into dumping grounds for all kinds of waste and sometimes filled up with earth to make way for new building constructions.



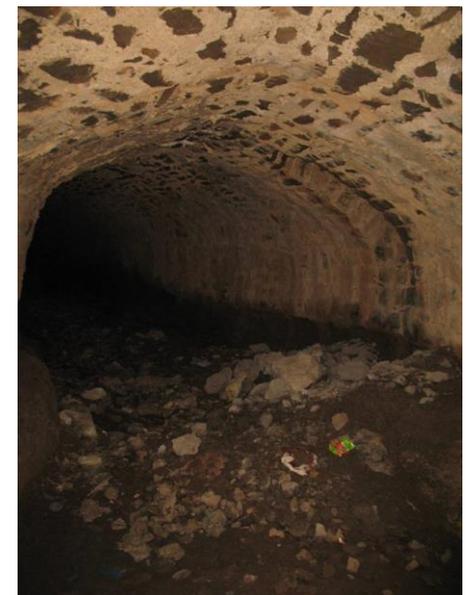
Many wells have gradually silted up, with water in these wells either drying up or becoming highly polluted thereby making them not fit for public consumption. The unique aspect of this city's historic water system has long been forgotten, neglected and underutilized in modern times making it necessary to revive and restore it as much as possible. Thus IHCNF initiated the survey and mapping of all historic water structures in Vijayapura over a period of 4 months from Jan 2016-May 2016. A technical team from IHCNF identified the location/extent of various historical hydrological structures, ie nearly 268 no. water structures including embankments, talabs (lakes), bavadis (stepped wells), Kuans (open wells), Gunj (water towers) and the underground water system or the Karez with air vents and earthen conduits.



BAVADI NEAR RAMALINGA TANK SHAHPUR

The survey covered 60 sq km including a 3.55 km Karez line. All these hydraulic structures and associated archaeological elements were identified, listed, mapped and their present condition analyzed. It has emerged that Vijayapura's landscape is a perfect example of a hydraulic civilization which is quite unique and which can set out a new image for the city.

It is envisaged that Vijayapura should be known the world over as an example of hydraulic civilization, just as Rome in Italy appears at the top in association with aqueducts. IHCNF has thus come up with an action plan for the Government of Karnataka in order to preserve and showcase Vijayapura's unique hydraulic Civilization including the mechanism for their revival and future sustainable use for the city.



ACTIVITIES UNDER HRIDAY SCHEME



Proposed View of Elevated Promenade at Luv

Ajmer is one of the most popular pilgrimage destinations and showcases a very diverse range of built, natural and intangible heritage. The city has exemplary heritage sites signifying pre-Mughal, Mughal, Rajput, Colonial and Indo-Saracenic styles of architecture. However, many of these sites have poor infrastructure, lack in visitor facilities and are not imageable in the overall urban fabric of the city.

The City HRIDAY Plan of Ajmer identifies 5 major heritage assets. Their influence zones were identified for upgradation and redevelopment works.

The total sum sanctioned to Ajmer by the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India is 35 Crores

Projects Update

The DPRs for all 5 projects have been approved after feedback from all stakeholders. The tendering process as well as selection of contractors for all projects is complete. Work is currently ongoing on all 5 sites. While the work in the Naya Bazaar Heritage Walk commenced on site in March 2016, the foundation stone for the rest of the 4 projects was laid by the Chief Minister of Rajasthan on 14th August 2016.

1. Naya Bazaar Heritage Walk - Envisioned as a market by the Governor of Ajmer in 1797 CE, the area reflects a somber blend of cultural and religious coexistence – from Mughal palaces to Rajput havelis and temples.

A 1.8km heritage walk has been envisaged - public facilities and streetscape designs cognizant to providing the best possible pedestrian experience, so that visitors can truly appreciate both the tangible and intangible heritage of the locale. **(Project Cost – 5.47 Crores)**

The Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India, launched the National Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY) scheme on 21st January, 2015, with a focus on holistic development of 12 heritage cities. Ajmer in Rajasthan is one of the cities where the HRIDAY scheme is currently under implementation. In 2015, MOUD selected DRONAH as the City Anchor for Ajmer in association with IHCNF & ICLEI.



Naya Bazaar-Ongoing façade restoration

2. Development of Anasagar Lakefront Anasagar lake holds tremendous significance as a unique example of natural heritage in Ajmer city. The section of the lakefront for which development has been proposed stretches for about 1.6km before the existing Chaupati up to Ramprasad Ghat.

The project aims at providing a uniform and continuous promenade along the lakeside, which intermittently opens into plazas and recreational spaces which encourage public space interaction. **(Project Cost -11.7 Crores)**

3. Redevelopment of Subhash Udyan Subhash Udyan is the biggest public garden in Ajmer city. The project aims at development of the area in a holistic manner, linking up-gradation of infrastructure and services with livelihood promotion and heritage conservation. The prominent elements that are being planned

for are, an interpretation center and open air museum to understand the history of the garden, passive and active recreational facilities for all age groups, a yoga and meditation garden, an amphitheater, a cafeteria and off-site parking structure to support these activities. **(Project Cost – 8.6 Crores)**

4. Upgradation of Jaipur Road Precinct From a city level perspective, the 500m long stretch delineated for upgradation is the backbone for transportation and part of the main approach to the city. Intervention on this stretch will significantly enhance the imageability of Ajmer for all visitors.

Maximum emphasis is being laid on improving pedestrian infrastructure, parking, developing plazas, applying a uniform design in the signage and shopfronts and creating uniform vendor kiosks. Additionally, the facades of all historic buildings that are situated along the road are being conserved.

Work on the conservation of historic building facades on Jaipur road started in September 2016 and is in progress. **(Project Cost-3.5 Crores)**



Pushkar Heritage Walk-Restoration Work

5. Pushkar Heritage Walk

Imagined to be one of the oldest places in the collective memory of Hindu Sadhus, Rishi-munis, the tirath yatri and the common masses, Pushkar holds a sacred position amongst the five pilgrimage sites of Hindus. A 3.17km heritage walk has been designed encompassing grand buildings like the Mahal Badshahi, several significant temples and ghats, to experience Pushkar religiously and architecturally, and to link the tangible and intangible assets.

The project is limited to restoring building facades, providing public conveniences and facilities in appropriate places, upgrading the services and designing the streetscape using a uniform language.

Building façade conservation has been underway since September 2016. **(Project Cost - 6.1 Crores)**

Source: DRONAH

NEWS AND INFORMATION



IHCNF MISSION TO STATES

Mission to Kerala: In continuation of earlier visit to Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala in November 2016, the Executive Director IHCNF called on Mr. S.M. Vijayanand, Chief Secretary Govt. of Kerala and Mr. T.K. Jose, Principal Secretary, Local Self Government, Govt. of Karnataka on 24th January 2017 to discuss IHCNF activities in the state.

Mission to Bidar: Director (Project) IHCNF visited Bidar on 6th February 2017 along with representatives from DHF and IIT Hyderabad. IHCNF made a presentation to Dr. H R Mahadev, new Deputy Commissioner Bidar on the Bidar Karez project.

Mission to Maharashtra: The Executive Director IHCNF met with Mr N C Sharda Director Indian Railways Institute of Civil Engineering and Mr Sanjay Khare Senior Professor IRICEN on 14th February 2017 in Pune.

Mission to Delhi: The Executive Director IHCNF called on Mr. Amarendra Khalua, Director General ICCR on 20th February 2017.

MEETINGS

Mr. Subir Hari Singh, Vice Chairman of IHCNF and Mr. K. S. Raykar, Executive Director (ED) called on the Honorable Rural Development Panchayat Raj Minister Mr H.K.Patil on 6th February 2017 and briefed him about the preparation of HRMP for the 10 heritage villages in the State by IHCNF.

Vice-Chairman & ED also had meetings with:

Dr Uma Shankar, Secretary, Kannada and Culture to discuss about the extension of the MoU of the Government of Karnataka with IHCNF and other matters

Mr. Mahendra Jain, Additional Chief Secretary, Urban Development Department, Govt. of Karnataka regarding the holding of 3rd Review and Co-ordination meeting to be headed by ACS, UDD.

ED of IHCNF met Mr Ravi Rajan Guru, Sr. Executive Director, AILSG in January 2017 in New Delhi following which an MOU has been

prepared to enter into a collaborative relationship for the general purpose of Training and Capacity Building and Joint Activities in the Heritage Sector.

Meeting between Chairman IHCNF Director UNESCO on 20th February 2017

Chairman IHCNF Dr. M. Ramachandran met Mr Shigeru Aoyagi Director & UNESCO Representative to India on 20th February 2017 and the modalities for implementation of MOU between UNESCO and IHCNF was discussed. An understanding was reached to

1. Jointly organizing the International Conference on Karez in October 2017.
2. Holding periodic conferences and workshops every year.
3. Joint publication based on completed IHCNF's research and project work
4. Jointly organizing the 5th IHCNF International Biennial in 2018.
5. Follow up/meetings of NITI Aayog

NEWS FROM OUR PARTNERS

UNESCO inks agreement with Ministry of Railways to develop Conservation Management Plan for Darjeeling Himalayan Railway World Heritage site.

UNESCO signed an agreement with Ministry of Railways, Govt. of India on 20th January 2017 to develop a framework 'Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan' to address the ongoing challenges of heritage conservation, management systems, and disaster risks. The project would document the various attributes that constitute the OUV of the site, while the findings will be further utilized in developing guidelines and manuals for DHR heritage management.

International Training Week on 'Tourism and Heritage' from 24th to 28th of APRIL, 2017

The Sites & Cités remarquables de France (former ANVPAH & VSSP) have announced the organization of International Training Week for international project managers which will take place from 24th to 28th April 2017 in Bordeaux, on the theme "Tourism and Heritage".

This training will be directed at international project managers, who work on the Protection and valorization of Cultural and Natural Heritage in partner countries of Sites & Cités remarquables de France.

For more information contact:

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ANNOUNCEMENT

2017 Call for Applications for the UNESCO Creative Cities Network

The UCCN is a flagship programme of UNESCO for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda, and the New Urban Agenda, at the local level. The UCCN fosters international cooperation with and between cities that have identified creativity as a strategic enabler for sustainable urban regeneration and development. 16 cities from 54 countries currently form this fast-growing network. The Network covers seven creative fields: Crafts and Folk Art, Design, Film, Gastronomy, Literature, Media Arts and Music. By joining the Network, cities commit to sharing good practices, developing inter-city partnerships, reinforcing participation in cultural life, and integrating culture in sustainable development plans. Candidate cities must submit their applications to UNESCO by using the official form available on our website no later than 16 June 2017, midnight CET.

For more information on the 2017 Call for application: <http://en.unesco.org/creative-cities/content/call-applications>.

2017 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation

UNESCO Bangkok is accepting entries for the 2017 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation. The Awards recognize the efforts of private individuals and organizations that have successfully restored or conserved structures, places and properties of heritage value in the region. Entries for the 2017 Awards programme must be submitted to UNESCO Bangkok by 30 June 2017.

For more information go to: www.unescobkk.org/culture/heritage/awards/apply (secondary link: goo.gl/ZrUZrJ)