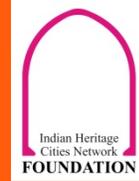




Newsletter of  
Indian Heritage Cities Network  
Foundation (IHCNF)



In-Heritance  
For the Future of  
Our Cities

VOL. 2 ISSUE NO.7 July 2017

## From IHCNF Desk in Bangalore

Greetings,

It is always a great pleasure for the IHCNF team to put together the monthly newsletter to keep our reader base updated with our activities. Here is bringing to you the July newsletter.

July of 2017 was an exciting month, not just at IHCNF but for heritage enthusiasts all over India as Ahmadabad got designated as India's first UNESCO World Heritage City. This prestigious recognition for the city is the result of the unrelenting effort of the various stakeholders and IHCNF sends heartiest congratulations to each and everyone involved.

The month of July started off with Government of Karnataka entrusting the work of preparing the nomination dossier for the Deccan Sultanate property tentatively titled the 'Monuments and Forts of the Deccan Sultanate. IHCNF also received the approval from the Government of Karnataka for the preparation of the Tourism Master Plans, DPR's under the Tourism Destination Development project.

On the 3rd of July, Executive Director and Director Projects visited Bhopal, MP with the support of Ms Anshu Vaish, Advisor IHCNF a meeting was held with Mr Vivek Aggrawal Secretary to CM and Commissioner UADD MP and Shri Hari Ranjan Rao, Secretary to CM for exploring IHCNF's role in the heritage and tourism sector in Madhya Pradesh.

5th July, ED and DP IHCNF made a two day trip to New Delhi with a series of meeting held on matters related to HRIDAY, Biennial Conference, Karez Conference, Community Radio Station etc.

Executive Director and Director Projects visited Bidar for venue selection for the International Conference on Karez, scheduled for the 29th-31st of October. A meeting regarding the Zero Waste Management Project was also held with the Commissioner of the Bidar City Municipal Council.

On 13th July, ED visited Mysuru to meet with Dr Niranjana, Registrar of the Karnataka State Dr. Gangubhai Hangal Music and Performing Arts University to examine the various sample signature tunes prepared for the Community Radio Station.

Executive Director and Director Projects also visited Vijayapura on the 9th of July for a site visit to the Vijayapura Karez and discussion were held pertaining to that with the Hon'ble Minister, M.B. Patil and the Commissioner.

On the 22nd of July, the 21st IHCNF Board of Trustees meeting and the 5th Heritage Cities Network Development Society (HCDNS) Board of Trustees meeting was held in New Delhi IHCNF Office.

### Inside this Issue

Feature Article

Pg 2

A short glimpse into the historically rich village of Balligavi in Shivamogga district, notified as a 'heritage by area' the Government of Karnataka in 2012-13.

Project Update

Pg 3

Status of ongoing  
Project Activities

News and Information

Pg 4

- **IHCNF Missions in July 2017** Bhopal, New Delhi, Vijayapura and Bidar
- **News from our partners** Events, conferences, seminars and lectures organized by our partners

Cover Image: The Historic City of Ahmadabad, a UNESCO World Heritage Site

## FEATURE ARTICLE

## Heritage Village: Balligavi



Kedareshwar Temple

*In 2012-13, the Government of Karnataka declared 20 new towns and villages as Heritage areas in the State of Karnataka. Last month we focused on the heritage village of Aihole. Continuing with the aim to create awareness about Karnataka's rich heritage, this month we bring to you the heritage village of Balligavi, popularly referred as the Dakshina Kedara translating to, the 'Kedarnath of the South'.*

Located in the Shikaripura taluk of Shivamogga district in Karnataka, Belagami or Balagame or Balligavi is a site of immense historical, archaeological and cultural significance.

Historically known by various names such as Valliggame, Valligrame and Dakshina Kedara literally translating to the Kedarnath of South, legends compared the city of Balligavi to Lord Indra's Amaravathi.

#### Mythological Reference

According to the legends, Balligavi, was named Balipura after the asura (demon) king Bali who resided in this area. Despite his demon ancestry King Bali, was a pious king known for his charities. An inscription, dated 1181 CE, found in Balligavi speaks about the greatness of the city by saying, "the rakshasa Bali having in his time dwelt in this kshetra, made gifts and in the course of manvantaras been considered as Indra himself, literally knows not how to praise the greatness of Balipura". As per legends King Bali, a demon, won over the heavens and therefore distorting the balance of the universe. Lord Vishnu then appeared on the earth to restore the balance back to normalcy. Another legend links Balligavi to the Pandavas of Mahabharata. Though Balligavi finds no mention in the epic, an inscription dated 1036 CE, tells Pandavas visited Balligavi while performing Rajasuya sacrifice and setup the Pancha Linga in this town.

#### History

Balligavi is dated back to the 3rd century as one of the dominions of the Mauryan Empire. The 10th-12th Century during the rule of the Kalyana Chalukyas, is credited as the golden age for Balligavi.

Balligavi was an important center for learning consisting of 13 educational centers, mathas (monastic center for learning) belonging to the Shaivas, Vaishnavas, Jinas and Buddhists were setup, vidyapeethas (place of learning). Historical records also mention Balligavi was also the home to an University in ancient times.

Apart from an important seat of learning Balligavi was also an important religious center. During the two-hundred-year reign of the Kalyana Chalukyas religions like Shaiva, Brahmi, Shaktha, Jaina, Boudha and Vaishnava were encouraged. Records say there were a total of 54 temples of which the Kedareshwar temple is the prime and probably the oldest temple of the village.



Kedareshwar Temple (By Dinesh Kannambadi - Own work, Wikimedia)

Dated to be built in the 9th-10th Century CE, this trikuta "triple towers" temple is an excellent example of the transitional Western Chalukya-Hoysala architecture. Other temples such as the Tripuranteshvara Temple constructed in 1070 CE under the reign of the Kalyana Chalukya king Somesvara II, Someshwara temple, Anjaneeya temple. Panchalingeshwara temple are also an example of exquisite craftsmanship of that time.



Tripuranteshvara Temple

Balligavi is also home to prominent personalities in history. It was the birthplace of Natyarani Shantala, who later became the Hoysala queen after her marriage with King Vishnuvardhana and Allama Prabhudeva, the 12th Century Lingayat saint, the one among the Trinity of Lingayatism.

#### Present Situation

The heritage village of Balligavi was reviewed in 2016 by IHCNF. Of the 54 historically significant properties only 12 are identified and protected by the ASI. Once a prominent commercial town, Balligavi is now largely dependent on agriculture and textile. The village lacks basic amenities and infrastructure. The traditional houses of the village are mud plastered and use laterite stones, abundantly available in this area.



**PROJECT UPDATES**

**LISTING AND MAPPING OF HERITAGE BUILDINGS UNDER PWD (PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT)**

The Public Works Department has a glorious history in the development of the State since pre-independence. The department is mainly entrusted with construction and maintenance of Roads, Bridges and Govt. buildings, ports and works related to Inland Water Transport. But now due to changing needs of the department many historic structures have undergone additions/ alterations and few demolished and others are on the verge of it. These buildings/structures play an important side in the history of public works in the region as well as the State in general which requires focused efforts to conserve the historic structures of the PWD. Till date no comprehensive identification, survey and mapping conducted at State, district and taluka level for PWD’s architectural heritage have been undertaken before. Need for protection of old buildings is not emphasised adequately, the department is in the process of erection of new buildings many time after demolishing the old ones.



Maharaja high School and Pre-university college

In view of these issues IHCNF with the support of the PWD initiated a pilot survey and study of PWD historic buildings/structures initially for Mysore district. It is envisaged that the exercise of listing and documentation would be extended subsequently for the entire State.

Buildings under PWD fall under two categories viz., institutional / commercial buildings and residential buildings. The first category covers office buildings, commercial complexes, colleges, hospitals, libraries, etc. Residential buildings include quarters and hostels. The many historic structures that come under/ maintained by PWD hold importance in the history and have exemplary architectural style. There are also many buildings which are not so architecturally rich but are depicting early construction techniques used in this region which are now being replaced by concrete.

Therefore, the listing is meant to protect historic buildings from needless demolition as towns and cities get redesigned and rebuilt. These inventories once done will help us in analyse the typologies of structures mostly built in British Period and for what purpose. It will help analyse the current condition of the buildings. Further, a list of recommendations/guidelines will be given to PWD for proper conservation/restoration works, maintenance and adaptive reuse for increasing the longevity and relevance of these buildings.

**REHABILITATION AND REVITALIZATION OF THE BIJAPUR (VIJAYPURA) KAREZ**

Vijayapura was one of the early capitals of the five Muslim ruled medieval kingdoms of the Deccan. Under the Adil Shahi’s 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’s population. It was one of the most extensive systems of urban water supply constructed in the latter half of the 16th century. This unique water system is unique for water conservation and management and was thus historically able to fulfill the water needs of Vijayapura city.

In 2016 with the support of the District Administration of Vijayapura, IHCNF initiated the detailed identification, mapping survey and analysis of the historic water system of Bijapur for revitalization and rehabilitation of the same. The technical team from IHCNF identified and mapped 268 no. water structures including Bavadi’s, wells, water towers, Bijapur’s Karez system, embankments, conduits, water reservoirs from Jan 2016-April 2016 covering 60 sq km including the approx. 3.55 km Karez line. An initial project report identifying the action plan for the rehabilitation /restoration of Bijapur Karez system was submitted to the District Administration. Subsequently the Karnataka Government has addressed the revival and development of the historical water system in Vijayapura in the 2016-17 state budget. The ED IHCNF met the District in-charge Minister Hon’ble Shri M.B. Patil and Mr Harsh Shetti on 9th July 2017 to discuss the findings of IHCNF’s studies on the historic water system of Vijayapura and action to be taken for initiating the cleaning and de-silting of the Karez system. Subsequently the District Administration with the support of the Bijapur Municipal Corporation initiated the clearance of vegetation and removal of land-fill from Surang Baudi on 12th July 2017 which led to desilting and unearthing of the Surang Baudi. A length of 15 meters of the Karez line has been cleared starting from Surang Baudi. A conservation architect from IHCNF and supporting 2 staff have been visiting the site periodically to assess the work underway and give necessary directions to the contractor and engineer. A detailed estimate for repair and stabilization of the Bijapur Karez will be submitted by IHCNF in the coming days for further action.



## NEWS AND INFORMATION

### IHCNF MISSION TO STATES

**Mission to Bhopal:** Executive Director and Director Projects visited Bhopal 3rd July 2017. A meeting took place with Mr Vivek Aggrawal Secretary to CM and Commissioner UADD MP to explore IHCNF's role in the heritage sector in Madhya Pradesh. Ms Anshu Vaish, Advisor IHCNF who facilitated this meeting was also present during the deliberation also. Discussions were held with Shri Hari Ranjan Rao, Secretary to CM to explore IHCNF's potential involvement in various tourism initiatives in the state.

**Mission to New Delhi:** Executive Director and Director (Projects) IHCNF visited New Delhi from 5-7th July 2017 and subsequently on the 21- 22nd July 2017.

During the first visit meetings held with Shri Jagan Shah (Director NIUA), Ms Rukmini (Director MoUD), IHCNF trustee Shri KT Ravindran, Ms. Moe Chiba (Programme Specialist for Culture, UNESCO), Mr Viresh Goel Sr Adviser (Ministry of Communications) on matters related to HRIDAY, IHCNF's Biennial Conference, Karez Conference, Community Radio Station etc. During the second visit meetings were held with Mr. Ravi Ranjan Guru (Sr. Executive Director, AILSG) on the Karez Conference and collaboration between AILSG and IHCNF. A meeting was also held with Ms. Shikha Jain, Director DRONAH, regarding the preparation of the nomination dossier. The visit culminated with the 21st IHCNF Board of Trustees meeting and the 5th Heritage Cities Network Development Society (HCDNS) Board of Trustees meeting which was held in New Delhi.

**Mission to Vijayapura:** The ED IHCNF and Director (Projects) met the District in-charge Minister Hon'ble Shri M.B. Patil and Mr Harsh Shetti, Commissioner of Vijayapura on 9th July 2017 to discuss the findings of IHCNF's studies on the historic water system of Vijayapura and action to be taken for initiating the cleaning and de-silting of the Karez system. The work commenced shortly after this visit (read further on Page 3)

**Mission to Bidar:** Executive Director and Director (Projects) IHCNF visited Bidar on 15th July and met with Shri HR Mahadev, DC Bidar, regarding the Karez conference. Site visits to potential venues for the conference were also conducted.

A meeting was also held with the Bidar Municipal Corporation Commissioner, Mr. Narasimha Murthy, regarding the Nestle grant for Zero Waste Management Project which will be jointly undertaken by IHCNF and DHF.

### NEWS FROM OUR PARTNERS

#### 'Ahar' Udaipur Heritage Walk, Maharana of Mewar Charitable Foundation

Maharana of Mewar Charitable Foundation, Udaipur has always taken an initiative for perpetuation of its core values such as service to society and mankind also serves as a 'temple of inspiration' for future generations. Therefore MMCF has taken its responsibility of preserving the remarkable tangible and intangible cultural heritage very seriously.

This enormous responsibility is fulfilled through a comprehensive and informed set of initiatives, one of which is 'Ahar' Udaipur Heritage Walk.

Supported by Udaipur Municipal Corporation, the 'Ahar' Udaipur Heritage Walk is the story of the day's bygone but still creating an impact on the present. 'Ahar' is one of the largest rural bronze age sites of Ahar-Banas Culture of South Rajasthan. It was represented by various stone structures, hearths, copper/bronze objects and evidence of smelting and then, for the first time, it was named 'Ahar' Culture. Beginning from the Ahar Mound, it is the story of the great culture that was found to be in the oldest layer of the excavation, dating back to the bronze age of The Indus Valley Civilization. Then comes the Royal Cenotaphs (Mahasatya Ji), one of the largest cenotaph complexes among the other Medieval Rajput cenotaph covering an area of 3.02 hectare. The splendid architecture, beautiful Torans, Chattris and Chautras which recalls the contributions of the Maharanas of Mewar who lived here and devoted themselves for the good and betterment of the people. The walk continues through various walk spots, including Gangaudbhav Kund – which means the origin place of holy river Ganga and it is believed in Udaipur that river Ganga originated from here, Bhaktimati Meera Temple – built in 10th century has projected walls resting on high plinth and it is famous for its elevated plinth with intricate carvings and continuous panel of sculptures.

Ahar Jain Temple – the first Teerthankara Aadinath, the 24th Mahaveera and a temple of Shantinatha and it ends to Traditional Musical Instruments Shops where traditional tie and die craftsmen inhabit and are still down the line carrying the valor in its tunes of the time that has passed but still remains in the air forever. This Heritage Walk is an initiative to further protect and promote crafts and folk art of Ahar.



**Sahapedia-UNESCO Fellowship 2017:** Sahapedia-UNESCO Fellowship 2017 launched in June 2017 has received overwhelming response from applicants. The fellowship aims to encourage young researchers to generate critical content on cultural heritage and highlight issues that require attention or rethinking. The research of the fellows will be published on Sahapedia, a curated online platform that aims to present a wide range of content on cultural heritage in a variety of formats like text, photos, videos, etc. The initiative will also help widen the network of professionals/young aspirants keen to work in the culture/heritage sector. The call for applications is closed. The applications are being screened currently for selection.

#### Ahmadabad, a UNESCO World Heritage city

The walled city of Ahmadabad was declared UNESCO World Heritage city at the World Heritage Committee meeting in July 2017. Ahmedabad is the first city in India to be given the World Heritage status

