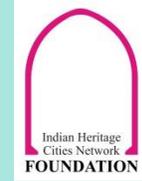




Newsletter of Indian Heritage Cities Network Foundation (IHCNF)



In – Heritance

For the Future of Our Cities

VOL. 2 ISSUE NO.5 MAY 2017

From IHCNF Desk in Bangalore

Greetings,

Every month our team looks forward to put together the newsletter to keep our avid reader base updated with our activities. Here is presenting the IHCNF's month of May newsletter.

Earlier this month on 2nd May 2017, the Hon'ble Union Minister for Urban Development, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu was in Bangalore for a meeting to review the implementation status of various Government of India schemes in Karnataka.



Hon'ble Union Minister for Urban Development, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu speaking at a meeting held in Bangalore on 2nd May 2017, Pic Source: @mvenkaiahnaidu

The status of HRIDAY Project in Badami was presented by Shri Praveen Prakash (IAS), Joint Secretary & Mission Director (SBM), MOUD and discussions were held to understand the progress made in implementation of various approved HRIDAY projects in Badami. KUIDFC the nodal agency for HRIDAY in Karnataka agreed to approve all

pending project tenders by end of May 2017. IHCNF the HRIDAY City Anchor for Badami in Karnataka was represented at the meeting by Executive Director (ED), Director (Projects) & Badami HRIDAY Project Officer.

On May 13th, 2017, ED and Director (Projects) briefed the Chairman of IHCNF Dr. M. Ramachandran and Vice Chairperson Shri. Subir Hari Singh about the status of various IHCNF projects and activities at a review meeting held in Bangalore.

This month too we continue with featuring one of the 20 towns and villages designated as 'heritage areas' by the Government of Karnataka. This time we bring to you the village of Sannati.

In the current issue, we are pleased to share with you the status of our ongoing Bidar Karez project which was recently approved by the Government of Karnataka for implementation of Phase 1. We are also happy to inform our readers that preparations are on in full swing for the International Conference on 'Karez on Cultural Borders' to be held in Bidar from 29-31st October 2017. Almost 15 international and national speakers have confirmed their participation at the conference. We look forward to sharing more details in the coming days. Hope you like this issue and we look forward to your continued feedback!

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

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Cover Photo Credit: Bidar Karez, Mr. Maniyarasan Rajendran, 2017

FEATURE ARTICLE

Heritage Village: Sannati



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 Malkhed. Continuing with the aim to create awareness about Karnataka's rich heritage, this month we bring to you the heritage village of Sannati, a site internationally known for its Buddhist relics and designated as the second most important Buddhist site after Sanchi.

Situated on the bank of river Bhima, Sannati lies in the Chitapur taluk of Gulbarga district. Up until the 20th century, Sannati was locally famous for the 500 year old Chandralamba Parameshwari Temple, and still remains as one of the popular Hindu pilgrimage centre in the region.

It was in the year 1954, when survey conducted by Kapatral Krishna Rao in Sannati uncovered the very first Buddhist artefact. In 1989, the village soon shot into limelight with discovery of Ashokan edicts. Since then, Sannati has become famous for its religious, historical archaeological significance, worldwide

Mythological Reference

As per legends, Sannati is the place where the Paduka (footwear) of Goddess Chandrala Parmeshwari - Incarnation of Goddess Lakshmi - was brought.

Sannati is also said to be the place where Rishi Markandeya meditated and composed parts of Markandeya Upanishad.

History and Excavations

Some scholars have identified Sannati as the ancient city of *Santimati*, the place name of the abode of tutelary Yaksha. Some associate the name Santimati with Buddhism as Lord Buddha referred to himself as the 'Santatman', *the one possessing tranquility of soul*.

Along the river Bhima, numerous tools have been unearthed dating back to the lower and middle Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic period.

Further excavations and archaeological projects established Sannati as one of the 32 towns in which Ashoka embraced Buddhism. Post Mauryan era, Sannati came was under the rule of the Satavahanas during the 1st and 2nd century AD.

The site first came to be associated with Buddhism in 1954. In 1986, the roof of the Kali temple in the Chandralamba Parameshwari temple complex fell only to reveal the Ashokan edict, which was acting as a pedestal for the

idol. This revelation proved to be of paramount importance for Indian history as it highlighted the expanse of Ashoka's empire.



Unearthing of the Ashokan edict inspired ASI to excavate mounds in Sannati and the nearby village of Kanaganahalli, as well. The excavations led to the discovery of the only surviving inscribed portrait of Ashoka and numerous limestone panels. These inscribed panels are believed to be the ruins of Maha Stupa or the '*Adholoka Maha Chaitya*' or the 'Great Stupa of the Netherworlds' in Kanaganahalli. The architecture of the stupa, displays distinct features from the Mauryan, Satavahana and later Satavahana period therefore dating the inception of stupa anywhere from the third century BC to third century AD.

Numerous life size statues of Buddha, close 250 Brahmi inscriptions, black polished pottery, pre-Satvahana and Satvahana period coins, copper and clay ornaments, paved pathway of a township, houses with limestone flooring have led archaeologists to claim this area as a part of an eighty six hectare spread fortified city of *Ranamandala*, of which only a portion till now has been excavated.

Present Situation

The heritage village of Sannati was reviewed in 2016 by IHCNF. The core settlement of the village still largely boasts of vernacular houses, compactly built together with narrow streets, a typical example of traditional settlement planning. The post independent part of the

village has spaciouly built modern residential and public buildings.

The common building material is the locally available Shahabad stone. The typical architecture of the house has an angan in front and the house is established on higher plinth, a typical style found in Malkhed as well.

Residential houses of the higher class generally have a decorated entrance, that is wooden doors with decorated patti and oil paint. The decorative feature is significant to this village and is of potential heritage value.

The village has several historic temples of which Chandrala Parmeshwari is the principal temple. Markandeya devasthan was established to commemorate Rishi Markandeya. Other temples include the Someshwara temple and Shiva Yogeshwara Temple, both boasting similarities with late Chalukyan style of architecture. Shiva Yogeshwara Temple has a prominent dome and is adorn with minarets, thereby displaying Bahamani style of architecture as well.

Kanaganahalli a village 3kms from Sannati is the site of the Maha Stupa and has been chosen as a site by the ASI and Government of Karnataka, for developing the international Buddhist Centre.



Several valuable artefacts are commonly found around the village, unfortunately rendered into deterioration due to damages from improper handling, natural elements and often theft.

Sannati is a treasure trove for archaeologist, researchers, and tourists alike.

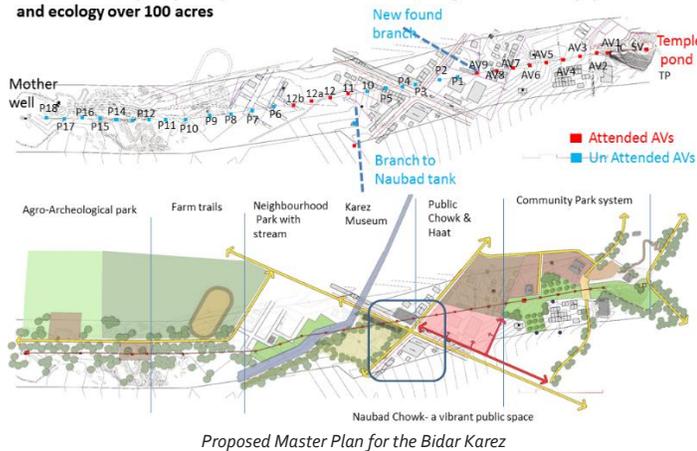
PROJECT UPDATES

REHABILITATION AND REVITALIZATION OF THE KAREZ IN NAUBAD, BIDAR

The historic town of Bidar situated in the north-eastern tip of Karnataka is known for its architectural, historical and religious significance. Its distinctive topography-elevated laterite capped plateau-forms the basis of a unique and complex water harvesting system known as the Karez or Qanat. At least three Karez systems are known to exist in Bidar. Of the three, the Naubad Karez which runs to the west of the walled city is the longest. Historically the Karez system in Bidar is of high significance since it dates to one of the most illustrious period of the city's history and whose roots lie in the Persian Qanat system of water management.

In 2012, IHCNF initiated a study on the Naubad Karez initially under the framework of a 3 year MOU with the Government of Karnataka with active support of District Administration which led to the preparation of the Initial Project Report. The Initial Research report was submitted to Government of Karnataka in 2014 with a proposal for revitalization of the Karez and its neighborhood, which included various aspects such as initiating de-silting of Karez gallery as first major task, stabilization of the Karez system, regulatory framework for the Karez influence zone, and development of the Karez precinct as a tourism destination including long term monitoring and monitoring measures for the Karez system. This subsequently led to the sanction of funds to start the de-silting work in the Karez which was commenced by the District Administration in May 2015. The Deccan Heritage Foundation India (DHFI) joined the initiative from early 2015 by supporting the DPR preparation for Bidar Karez project and along the journey the International Centre for Qanats and Historic Hydraulic Structures (ICQHS) and IIT Hyderabad assisted with their expertise and guidance, to ensure the success of this project.

OUTCOME: An open space system above the Karez line, integrates community space and ecology over 100 acres



The broad contours of the Master Plan for the Bidar Karez was conceptualized during a Master Plan Charatee which was attended by all project partners, experts and stakeholders. The drawings and estimates for Phase 1, Zone 1 of the proposed Master Plan amounting to Rs 3.16 crores was submitted to the District administration in August 2016 for necessary approval and sanction of funds for implementation of the works. The works proposed in Phase 1 includes site clearances, constructing pathways and surface paving, parapet around the Karez vents, compound wall and amphitheatre, slope stabilization and improving site drainage.



The DPR for Phase 1, Zone 1 was approved in May 2017 which was preceded by a visit by Secretary Tourism, Government of Karnataka to the site in order to review the proposal and proposed interventions.



ANNOUNCEMENT: BIDAR KAREZ PROJECT WEBSITE IS NOW ONLINE!

We are very happy to announce that a dedicated website for the Bidar Karez project- www.bidarkarez.org is now live.

The Sonata Software Pvt Ltd, a well-known software company with their base at Bangalore and Hyderabad, as part of their CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) initiative for IHCNF-DHF-ICQHS has helped build the online platform for the Bidar Karez project where the project history and learnings, processes can be documented in the best way as the project progresses. The platform is visualized as a knowledge bank for researchers and conservation architects and other allied experts working in the field of heritage conservation. The website is envisaged as a way to spread awareness of the project among the general public and gather their support. IHCNF supported the project by providing the content of the website and mapping the history of the project. The Deccan Heritage Foundation India team consisting of conservation architects and a digital consultant have curated the content for the website and have been working with Sonata Software team to build this platform since October 2016.

This website can be accessed on all possible devices without any break from the visual experience. The website will continue to be updated at regular intervals.

NEWS AND INFORMATION

IHCNF MISSION TO STATES

Mission to Nagpur: Executive Director and Director (Projects) IHCNF visited Nagpur on 23rd May 2017 for a meeting with Shri Sachin Kurve (IAS), Collector, Nagpur District. Discussion was held on potential heritage based activities in different parts of Nagpur city and district such as Development of Heritage walks for city of Nagpur, Precinct Development plan for Mahal and Kasturchand Park in Nagpur city, Building conservation plans for Institute of Science, Divisional commissioner's office and other colonial period buildings in the city, Nagardhan fort development plan and development of heritage sites in Ramtek. IHCNF technical team will visit these sites and come up with an initial proposal and make a presentation to all stake holders in the last week of June 2017.

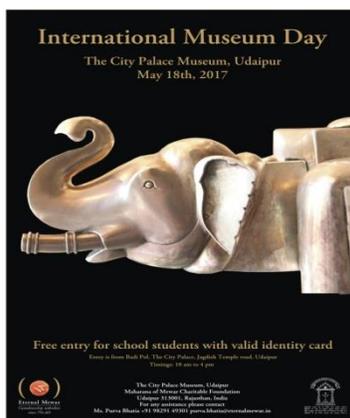
Mission to Bidar: Director (Projects) IHCNF visited Bidar on 31 May 2017 for a meeting and site visit to the Bidar Karez site with Shri Naveen Raj Singh, IAS Secretary Tourism, Government of Karnataka and other Bidar District Administration officials. A detailed proposal for the Rehabilitation and Revitalization of the Bidar Karez with drawings and estimates for Rs 3.16 crores was submitted by IHCNF to Government of Karnataka in August 2016 for necessary approval. The proposal has been jointly prepared by IHCNF with the funding support of Deccan Heritage Foundation and specialist inputs from ICQHS based in Yazd, IIT Hyderabad and FICUS. The proposal and details of interventions were discussed during the day long visit. At the meeting IHCNF was directed to assist the BUDA commissioner to superimpose the Bidar Karez Master Plan proposal area on Bidar's City Development Plan. The Secretary highlighted that the Bidar Karez has the potential of being declared a world heritage site and therefore planning of the site is very important part of it. It was announced that administrative approval has been given to the Bidar Karez project for Rs 2.7 crore.



NEWS FROM OUR PARTNERS

International Museum Day celebrations on 18 May 2017 at the City Palace Museum organized by Maharana of Mewar Charitable Foundation, Udaipur

Alongside museums from all over the world, The City Palace Museum, Udaipur celebrated International Museum Day on Thursday, May 18th, 2017. Students were allowed free entry to the Museum and fun activities were arranged to encourage them to look, think, imagine and discover. An eye-catching poster and invitation letter were sent, in advance, to approximately one hundred and fifty schools in the city and over fourteen hundred students came! This was despite the start of summer vacations. While the younger children displayed their artistic skills in a colouring activity, a written quiz had older ones examining various artworks closely. One question, for example, asked them to locate a tiny silver elephant that adorns a remarkable royal carriage on display in the Amar Mahal Silver Gallery.



The City Palace Museum, Udaipur is an integral part of the Maharana of Mewar Charitable Foundation (MMCF), an initiative of the Custodians of the House of Mewar. Promoting an appreciation of the Living Heritage of Mewar is a key objective of MMCF which is achieved by alerting students, our leaders of tomorrow, to its historical significance and splendor.



Kalimping Folk Festival by Rural Crafts and Cultural Hubs (RCCH) in association with UNESCO

Kalimping Folk Festival was organized at the Mela Ground on 27-28 May, showcasing the rich culture and traditions of various communities of the hills including Kalimpong and Darjeeling. It was an occasion to celebrate the vibrant songs and dance forms of Dhimal, Tamang, Lepcha, Tibetan, Bhutia, Mangar, Baun, Sherpa and other communities of the Hills and strengthen the bonds of goodwill, social harmony and peace. Footfall was high with an enthusiastic response from locals and tourists. There were 15 stalls that sold traditional local costumes, handicrafts, cuisine and publications.

The event followed a two-day Darjeeling Festival held in Darjeeling town on 5 and 6 April. Both the festivals are part of the Rural Crafts and Cultural Hubs (RCCH) project — an initiative of the West Bengal Government's Department of Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises and Textiles (MSME&T), undertaken in association with UNESCO.

The RCCH project aims at strengthening traditional folk art and crafts forms, follows Art for Life (AFL) methodology in applying culture-based development model to address social inclusion and strengthening livelihood and AFL focuses on capacity-building of folk artists and crafts persons, providing them direct market linkages, and establishing creative networks for them through exchange and collaboration events. Documentation of traditional art and culture is another important aspect addressed by AFL. It is crucial for the artists to safeguard their art forms, and also for creating new audiences. A total of 12000 folk and handicraft artists are under the RCCH project at present. This includes about 1000 artists from different communities of Darjeeling and Kalimpong.