



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

Presenting to you In-Heritance IHCNF's monthly newsletter for the month of November. Through our monthly newsletter we strive to keep our avid reader base updated about all our activities every month.

On the 7th of November, Executive Director IHCNF visited Bhubaneshwar, Odisha regarding the conduct of 5th IHCNF Biennial. During this visit meetings were held with Shri Prem Kumar Jha (IFS), Special Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department, Shri Sudhi Ranjan Mohanty, Planning Member, BDA, Shri Debi Misra, Section Officer, Housing and Urban Development Department and Shri Gurudutt Khuntia, Communications Expert, BDA.

The IHCNF team also met Dr. SS Ray, Director of School of Architecture and Planning, KIIT University to discuss KIIT hosting the Student Design Competition, an outreach activity of the 5th Biennial Conference. For more information on the Student Competition visit Page 4!

On 23rd of November, a meeting was held at the UNESCO New Delhi office to review the ongoing preparations for Biennial Conference to be held in Bhubaneswar in 2018. The Chairman IHCNF, ED IHCNF, and several trustees including Dr. Kulwant Singh, Prof KT Ravindran, Dr Rohit Jigyasu and Ms. Moe Chiba, Programme Specialist UNESCO New Delhi Culture Sector were present at the meeting.

Earlier on 30th October, IHCNF Chairman convened a meeting in Bidar which was attended by the two trustees Dr Kulwant Singh and Prof Ajay Khare and the Executive Director to discuss preparatory work for the Biennial Conference.

Starting on the 15th of November the IHCNF team working on the World Heritage Nomination of the 'Monuments and Forts of the Deccan Sultanate' embarked on 2-week site visit to the Bidar, Bijapur and Gulbarga. The IHCNF team was joined by Dr. Shikha Jain, IHCNF Advisor for the preparation of the nomination dossier.



The IHCNF team with Dr Shikha Jain

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A glimpse into the historically rich town of Banavasi, notified as a 'heritage area' by the Government of Karnataka in 2012-13.

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Feature Article

Heritage Village: Banavasi



In 2012-13, the Government of Karnataka declared 20 new towns and villages as Heritage areas in the State of Karnataka.

Every month one heritage town or village of Karnataka is featured in IHCNF's newsletter focusing on the significance and various heritage aspects of the place with the aim to enrich our readers with knowledge and bring awareness about the rich heritage of Karnataka.

"It is a virtue to be born in Banavasi as a human. If not as a human then at least one should be born as a bee or a cuckoo in the garden of Banavasi"

- Aadi Kavi Pampa

Once the capital city of the Kadamba kings, Banavasi is one of the most ancient towns located in Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka renowned for its historicity, natural beauty and craftsmanship.

History

Known by names such as Vanavasika, Jayanthipura, Konkanapura, Nandanavana, Jaladurga, Banavasi has been featured in many historical literatures including the epic, Mahabharata. Moreover, foreign travellers such as Ptolemy, Huen Tsang, Al-Beruni have all mentioned Banavasi in their books. It is said Banavasi's natural beauty inspired Kalidasa's famous poem, Meghaduta. The famous Aihole inscriptions of Pulakeshin II speaks of Jaladurga or water fort which is another name of Banavasi. Owing to successive reigning dynasties Uttara Kannada is not only ancient but one of most culturally rich parts of Karnataka.

Banavasi has been under influence of Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism. It is also believed King Ashoka sent missionaries to Banavasi.



Pampavana

One of the most famous temples in Banavasi is the Madukeshwara temple. It was originally built by the Kadambas but underwent additions during the Chalukyan period. This temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu who according to Puranas, killed a demon, at request of Lord Shiva in Banavasi. The temple is a treasure trove for sculptures and has the famous five hooded Naga sculpture with inscription in Prakrit. Apart from the Madukeshwara temple, there are many other popular temples adorning the Banavasi's landscape such as the SithiKantheshwar, a Shiva temple situated next to the Ratha of the Madhukeshwara temple; the Kadambeshwar Temple which holds the biggest Shiva idol in Banavasi and the Neelkantheshwar Temple.

Pampavana, is a small grove dedicated to one of the most famous Kannada writer, Aadi Kavi Pampa. There is also evidence of an old fort, though not much of it survives today.

There have been other important archaeological findings in Banavasi such as- 3rd century pottery with Brahmi scripts, coins from the Satavahana period, 5th century copper coins with Kannada script.

The Directorate of Archaeological Survey of India, based on the evidence of this 5th century coin confirms existence of a mint in Banavasi.



Banavasi is also a town of festivals. Festivals such as Lakshadeepotsav, Ratha festival and Mahashivrathri are celebrated with immense zeal and enthusiasm. However, the main festival of the town is a three-day festival called Kadambotsava held every year honouring Banavasi's glorious past.

Renowned classical musicians, yakshagana artistes, drama troupes, folk dancers and eminent literary personalities assemble for Kadambotsava and make it a huge cultural fete.

Present Scenario



Banavasi even today is an important cultural centre of the Yakshgana art form. Local artisans excel in the Yakshgana mask making. Apart from this Banavasi has a versatile craftsman community specializing in artistic carpentry, sandalwood carving, basket making, pottery, black smithy, shoe-mending, and Rangoli.

Traditional houses are still surviving in Banavasi, some as old as 150-200 years old with traditional sloping roof, timber staircase with open or semi open verandahs. Unfortunately, due to lack of awareness the vernacular landscape of this ancient town is fast disappearing.

ACTIVITY REPORT: SITE VISIT TO THE DECCAN SULTANATE SITES IN KARNATAKA

"As most researchers believe that heritage is linked to the past and symbolizes some sort of gift to be passed down to the current as well as future generations, both in terms of cultural traditions and the physical object itself"

As part of our Nomination Dossier preparation of "Monuments and Forts of Deccan Sultanate" IHCNF WHS Team visited Bijapur, Gubarga and Bidar in the midweek of November, to facilitate our work on the most representative, authentic and best conserved examples of Deccani Sultanate monuments in India.



Located in the dry, semi - arid region of N-East Karnataka these historical places gave an opportunity to explore them through their rich cultural traditions, heritage, art and history. To name a few, the renowned Gol Gumbaz and Ibrahim Rauza in Bijapur provides a picturesque setting and a centre of attraction for the city.



Gol Gumbaz : The 17th century monument of Bijapur, Gol Gumbaz is the mausoleum of Muhammad Adil Shah. It is said to be an astonishing feat of engineering with its enormous 'Whispering dome', which is second largest in the world.



Ibrahim Rauza: This is the tomb of Ibrahim Adil Shah II (ruled 1580-1627), the fifth king of the dynasty and known for religious tolerance.

Built on a single rock bed, it is noted for the symmetry of its features. Henry Cousins called the building as "The Taj Mahal of the Deccan".



While the Bidar Fort complex comprising of Palaces and Ceremonial Structures, Mahmud Gawan's Madrasa (partly damaged) are equally remarkable in context of art, architecture and cultural heritage.

Bidar Fort Complex: Sultan Alla-Ud Din Bahman of the Bahmanid Dynasty shifted his capital from Gulbarga to Bidar in 1427 and built his fort along with a number of Islamic monuments. There are over 30 monuments inside Bidar fort.

Madrasa of Mahmud Gawan : Founded by the prime-minister of the Bahmani empire in the late 15th century. It functioned like a residential University which was built and maintained on the lines of Madrasa of Khurasan. The imposing and spacious building of the institution is considered as an architectural gem and an important landmark of Bidar.

On the other hand, the first Bahmani capital city of Gulbarga in the 14th CE showcases impressive fortifications, religious monuments like the Jami Mosque, Dargah of Hazrat Khawaja Bande Nawaz etc. in living conditions and preserved. The Haft Gumbaz tombs include that of Mujahid Shah, Daud Shah, Ghiyath al-Din Shah and Shams al-Din Shah of the Bahmani dynasty.



Jami Mosque: It is regarded as one of the best examples of mosque architecture in South Asia. The arches design of Jama Masjid Gulbarga reflects in the interiors of Spanish Mosque of Hyderabad, India. These are only two mosques in India which have interiors similar to the Cathedral – Mosque of Córdoba in Spain.



The Deccan Sultanate sites are a visual treat for tourists, witnessing a union of past and present while major part of the monuments is in ruins now. The protection, management, authenticity and integrity of the properties are also important considerations that needs to be focussed on. It is disheartening to see that some people, forgetting that they are doing an irreparable damage to invaluable archaeological masterpieces, inscribe their initials, names, places, addresses or messages on these national treasures. The conservation and protection of these monuments cannot be neglected any further.



The very reason why a property is chosen for inscription on the World Heritage List as World Heritage sites belong to everyone and should be preserved for future generations, is the very principle on which the World Heritage Convention is based. So how do we merge our convictions with our concerns over the impact of tourism on World Heritage sites? The answer is through sustainable tourism. Directing governments, citizens and visitors towards sustainable tourism practices is the only way to ensure the safekeeping of our world's natural and cultural heritage.

NEWS AND INFORMATION

NEWS FROM OUR PARTNERS

Children’s Book Fair, 14th - 19th November 2017, Maharana of Mewar Charitable Foundation, Udaipur

Maharana of Mewar Charitable Foundation, The City Palace, Udaipur organized an interactive and creative Children’s Book Fair from 14th - 19th November 2017 at Khush Mahal Chowk, The City Palace Museum, Udaipur. This Children’s Book Fair was organized in honour of Children’s Day and will covers a wide range of books to appeal to children of all ages. Many popular publishers including Amar Chitra Katha, Scholastic India, Kalpavriksha, Children’s Book Trust, Rajasthan Sahitya Academy, Eklavya, Pratham books, Vidya Bhawan society, Tara Books, Bloomsbury, Delhi Press Magazine and Dream World India, will display books in many languages.

Reading for pleasure inside and outside of school has real and long-lasting benefits. It unlocks the power of information and imagination and helps children discover who they are. It also boosts self-esteem and creativity. MMCF’s Children’s Book Fair aims to encourage young readers at a time when people are reading less due to the impact of social media and the internet.



Restoration of the Zenana Mahal, Maharana of Mewar Charitable Foundation

The restoration project underway has commenced with the replacement of decorating plaster on exterior walls of Zenana Deodi, the Zenana Mahal, and the City Palace, Udaipur.

Ornamentation at the entrance gate is in the form of wall paintings which is a traditional practice of this region.



Panel Discussion, UNESCO New Delhi, 24th November 2017

A panel discussion was organised in collaboration with Auroville, on the occasion of 50th year of Auroville at the UNESCO Office in New Delhi.

As part of the event, a panel discussion on 'Learning to Live Together: Translating SDG 4.7 into Practice' was organised. SDG (Sustainable Development Goal) 4 deals with Quality Education and SDG 4.7 in particular refers to 'education for sustainable development, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, and appreciation of cultural diversity

and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development’. The Panel Discussion aimed to trigger a reflection on concrete ways to achieve this critical goal of the new UN 2030- Agenda for Sustainable Development. One of the aspects discussed included heritage education in schools.

ANNOUNCEMENT

STUDENT DESIGN COMPETITION

Organized by:

IHCNF, UNESCO, KIIT University

As part of the 5thIHCNF International Biennial Conference, IHCNF is association with UNESCO, New Delhi, School of Architecture and Planning, KIIT University, Bhubaneswar and SPA Bhopal are organizing a Student Design Competition on the theme: **“SMART strategies for maintaining the Culture and Identity of Historic Cities”**

The objective of the Competition is to:

- 1) Develop different imaginations of smart city concept for cities by understanding its cultural heritage.
- 2) Develop an understanding of how Area Based Development in city proposals can be integrated with the city- functionally, socially and aesthetically.
- 3) Sensitize students to human aspects of Indian cities development and smart urbanism.

Want to participate?

Contact your institute’s Head of Department/Director of Architecture and Planning Department/ School or drop us an email at info@ihcn.in or sudha.pandafar@kiit.ac.in for any queries.

The important deadlines to watch out for are:

Last Date of Registration:

20th December 2017

Last Date of Submission:

20th January 2018

