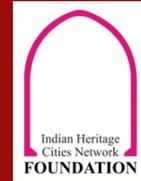




Newsletter of Indian Heritage Cities Network Foundation (IHCNF)



In – Heritage For the Future of Our Cities

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From IHCNF Desk in Bangalore

Greetings to all!

Presenting to you a combined issue for the month of September and October of the IHCNF's newsletter which allows us to keep our reader base updated about all our activities for each month in different parts of India.

An MoU was signed with the Commissioner Archaeology Monuments and Heritage (AMH), Government of Karnataka on the 1st September 2017. With this MoU IHCNF has been entrusted the work of preparation of Dossier and Management Plan for the serial world heritage nomination of *Monuments and Forts of the Deccan Sultanate* (Bidar, Gulbarga, and Bijapur).



**Dr N Manjula IAS, Director Tourism GoK
and Mr Kishor Raykar**

On 10th of October the first Meeting Pertaining to the Preparation of the Nomination Dossier and the Management Plan for the Serial WH Nomination was held in the presence of the Commissioner (AMH) IHCNF advisors, Dr Halkatti and Dr Shikha Jain along with IHCNF team.

On 11th of October, a Review Meeting for the International Conference on Karez was held in the presence of the Hon'ble Minister for Municipalities and Local Bodies Department and Department of Public Enterprises, Shri Eshwara B Khandre. The meeting was also attended by the Director Tourism, Dr N Manjula IAS; Deputy Commissioner of Bidar, Dr. H R Mahadev; Joint Director (Administration) Department of Information and Public Relation Shri H B Dinesh along with Executive Director of IHCNF and Director (Projects) IHCNF. On 17th October, Executive Director and Director (Projects) met with Director General of Archaeological Survey of India in Delhi. The meeting was held to discuss the Karez conference and the HRIDAY Badami project. On 19th of October, a Review Meeting for the 12 Tourism Destination Development was held with the Hon'ble Minister for IT, BT and Tourism, Shri Priyank Kharge; Principal Secretary Tourism, Shri Gaurav Gupta IAS; Director Tourism, Dr N Manjula IAS along with IHCNF staff. The meeting was held to finalize on various projects from the 12 locations for DPR preparation. On 30th October, Chairman convened a meeting in Bidar attended by the two trustees present- Dr Kulwant Singh and Prof Ajay Khare; Executive Director and Director (Projects). The meeting was held to discuss the 5th IHCNF Biennial.

From the 29th to the 31st of October, IHCNF jointly organized the International Conference on Karez on Cultural Borders in Bidar. More on the conference on page 3!

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FEATURE ARTICLE

Heritage Village: Halebidu



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 will be 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.

Halebidu or Halebeedu was a 12th century capital city of the Hoysalas. The Hoysala empire was a prominent power in the southern India and ruled from the 10th to the 14th century.

Halebidu is located in the Belur taluk of the Hassan district. Hassan district was the seat of the Hoysala Empire with comprising of both the early capital city and the later capital city, i.e. Belur and Halebidu respectively.

HISTORY

Developed around a large lake, Halebidu was originally called Dorasamudra or Dvarasamudra which translated to the "gateway to the sea of water". Under the Hoysala king Vishuvaradhan (1108-1152) the Hoysalas received the status of an independent kingdom. It was during his reign the Hoysala capital was moved from Belur to Dorasamudra.

The town got its name Halebidu meaning the 'old encampment/abode' because of the damage and destruction it suffered after being ransacked by the Delhi Sultanate armies twice in the 14th Century

Halebidu stands testimony to a period often regarded as an important era in the Southern Indian history, for striding development in the field of art, architecture, literature and religion. Hoysala architectural style is described as *Karnata Dravida* which is identified as an independent architectural tradition with element inspired from the Western Chalukyan style as well as the Dravidian style.

The Hoysala temples were mostly made from soapstone. Due to the soft nature of the stone it gave the craftsman the scope to produce exquisite intricate and well detailed carvings, making the craftsmanship of this reign universally admired.

Originally Jains, Hoysalas, later turned to Hinduism. Some of the prominent Hindu temples along with Jain basadi or shrines from that period in Halebidu are covered as follow:

The Hoysaleswara temple, built in 1121, is the principal temple in Halebidu and was an important dynastic temple for the Hoysalas. Dedicated to Lord Shiva the temple features artistic depiction from the Hindu mythology, and theology and features major Hindu god and goddess where no two sculptures are the same. Built in soapstone, the temple is unique for its star shaped plan achieved by juxtaposing two temples; Hoysaleswara and Shantaleswara, dedicated to Vishnuvardhana and his wife Queen Shantala, respectively.



Hoysaleswara Temple

Kedareshwara Temple- The temple is dedicated to the Kedarshwar, one of Shiva's form. The temple is a three-shrine temple and hence qualifies as a trikuta. Even though the temple is a Shaiva temple, it displays popular element for Vaishnava legends.



Kedareshwara Temple

Parshvanatha Basti: This shrine is dedicated to the twenty third tirthankara, Parshva.

Built by the son of a minister at Vishnuvardhana's court, Boppana, the shrine houses 18ft tall statue of Parshva. Apart from this the town also has the Shantinatha Basti, dedicated to the sixteenth tirthankara, Shantinatha and Adinatha Basti, shrine dedicated to the Adinatha and Saraswati.



Parshvanatha Basti

Apart from the religious structures, Halebidu also has exquisite kalyanis and water reservoirs an important legacy of this Hoysala town.



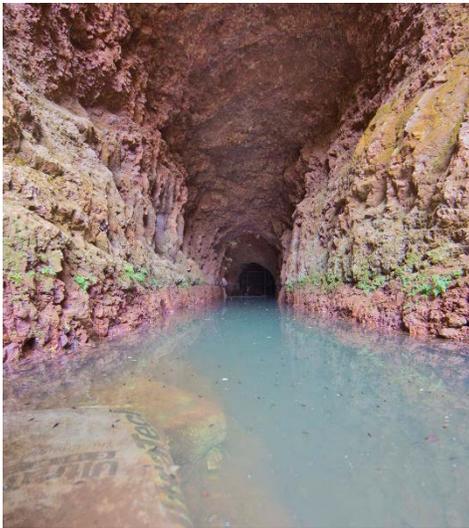
Hulikere Tank

Present Scenario:

Wood sculpting and stone sculpting is a popular arts industry in the Halebidu even today. Many houses still retain the traditional and vernacular character indigenous to this historic town, a style worthy of protection.

SPECIAL FEATURE: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON KAREZ ON CULTURAL BORDERS

An international conference on Karez on Cultural Borders was held in the historic city of Bidar (Karnataka) on the 29th, 30th and 31st of October 2017. The conference was organized by the Department of Tourism, Government of Karnataka jointly with Indian Heritage Cities Network Foundation, UNESCO New Delhi and International Centre on Qanats and Historic Hydraulics Structure in partnership with the Water Resource Department, Government of Karnataka; Bidar District Administration, Archaeological Survey of India, Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) and All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIIILSG). This was the first time a conference dedicated to this historic underground water system was organized in India. Bidar is one of the few cities in India to boast of a Karez system. The Karez in Bidar demonstrates an ingenious method of collection, transportation, storage and distribution of groundwater which was historically adapted from Persian engineering knowledge and expertise.



Naubad Karez, Bidar, Karnataka

In 2012 the Government of Karnataka took up demonstrative heritage projects showcasing adaptive reuse, restoration and heritage precinct development in Bidar with the technical assistance of Indian Heritage Cities Network Foundation. Among several other projects a proposal to take up revival of the Karez system was initiated with the support of Bidar District Administration which was at that time merely identified as a canal system. Following detailed survey and research the Bidar Karez system was identified as a significant heritage asset for Bidar and a proposal for its conservation and rehabilitation and developing its tourism potential was initiated. This is a one of its kind initiative not only in Karnataka but also in India.

While the Bidar District Administration which played an important role in the ongoing rehabilitation of the Karez, the project gave rise to a unique technical collaboration which saw the involvement of IHCNF, the Deccan Heritage Foundation, International Centre for the Qanats and Hydraulics Structures based in Yazd in Iran, IIT Hyderabad, IISc Bangalore and various experts from the field of Landscape planning and architecture, geotechnical and hydrogeology, conservation, urban planning making the Bidar Karez project a very unique multidisciplinary project.

An outcome of this collaboration has been the approval of interventions for Bidar Karez for Phase 1, by the Department of Tourism, Government of Karnataka in May 2017.

The conference brought together eminent national and international scholars from countries like Iran, Oman, Egypt, Morocco, USA, Netherland, Sweden, and Algeria and experts to present case studies and good practices from around the world. The Indian experts and speakers threw light on ongoing efforts to conserve the Karez at Bidar, Bijapur, Aurangabad, Burhanpur, and Pune as well.



Inaugural Ceremony

The conference was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Shri Eshwara B Khandre, Minister for Municipalities and Local Bodies Department and Department of Public Enterprises, Govt. of Karnataka. Dr M. Ramachandran (Chairman of IHCNF), Shri Harsh Gupta, (Regional Commissioner of Kalaburgi) and Shri Selvamani (CEO of Zilla Panchayat, Bidar) along with Mr. Hossein Ghafori, (Acting Director ICQHS) and IHCNF trustees Dr Kulwant Singh and Dr Ajay Khare also graced the opening ceremony.



The 3-day conference was divided into 5 sessions, 18 presentations and plenty of stimulating discussions. As a part of the conference a site visit to the Naubad Karez and Bidar Royal Fort was organized.



Session in Progress at the Conference



Site Visit to the Naubad Karez

Dr N. Manjula IAS (Director Tourism, Government of Karnataka), along with Shri Kumar Pushkar IFS (MD KSTDC) and Shri Vijay Sharma, IFS (MD Jungle Lodges) graced the closing ceremony along Dr. M Ramachandran, with Chairman IHCNF and Dr Kulwant Singh, Trustee IHCNF.



Closing Ceremony

The contribution from the speakers was very helpful to better understand, and preserve this hydraulic heritage in Bidar and other cities in India. The Karez systems found across mainly the Deccan sultanates and especially in Bidar and Bijapur have the potential to be included into the purview of the UNESCO World Heritage sites starting with the Tentative list. This conference provided an excellent platform for knowledge sharing and spreading of awareness on this water system.

NEWS AND INFORMATION

LATEST NEWS FROM IHCNF

On 15th September our new recruits reported to the IHCNF head office in Bangalore for a 2-day orientation cum workshop programme.



Our team at the IHCNF Head Office at Venkatappa Art Gallery, Bangalore.

The orientation cum workshop saw guest speakers like Dr. V. Hallakatti, Mr. Balehosur and Mr. Sri Ganesh addressed the new recruits regarding various topics ranging from the history IHCNF's historic project sites, building conservation and landscape and urban design process, respectively. Ms. Paromita and Mr. P. Abhijith briefed the new member of the various projects. We are now a 30-member strong team and we are just getting started!

NEWS FROM OUR PARTNERS

UNESCO, New Delhi, 1st September 2017



UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova and Chief Minister of Gujarat Shri Vijay Rupani

UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova was in India on an official visit. She travelled to Ahmedabad where she presented the World Heritage Certificate to the Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Vijay Rupani as part of the recent inscription of Ahmedabad city on the UNESCO World Heritage list. She also visited various heritage sites across the city. On World Tourism Day 27th September 2017, the City Palace Museum, Udaipur organized special programs and events for the visitors visiting the Museum. A Cultural Program was held at the Chowmukha, Zenana Mahal led by the local resource Mr. Purshottam Rao from Maruti Musical Group, Udaipur and 15 other artists.



Maharana of Mewar Charitable Foundation: Ashwa Poojan Ceremony, 29th September 2017

A timeless gratitude to equity with an object of preserving artistic, religious and historic interest for cultural conservation of heritage. The autumn Navratri (nine sacred days and nights) form one of the auspicious times in the Hindu calendar. The festival of Navratri is dedicated to the worship of the goddess Durga, the consort of Shiva in Hindu mythology. On the ninth day of Navratri, which is a symbolic day of victory, arms and other symbols of the warrior are worshiped in northern India. In Rajasthan, famous for its cavalry charges, this day is also marked by the worship of war animals like the elephant and the horse. The worship of the horse, Ashwa Poojan, continues till date. The horses that are part of the rituals are those belonging to the 'Marwari' breed, a distinct internationally recognized breed that is threatened with extinction. Ashwa Poojan therefore, is a great forum for conservation of many different tangible and intangible forms of heritage, and as such serves an important and visible example to fulfil the aim of the Foundation. Ashwa Poojan Ceremony was held at The Manek Chowk, The City Palace, Udaipur on the 29th September 2017.



Go Heritage Run, Badami, 3rd September 2017

IHCNF partnered with Go Heritage Runs for their run at Badami. The run saw a participation by 150 runners from various cities in India. The IHCNF staff at the Badami office volunteered at the run.



Participants at the Go Heritage Run Badami

Make Heritage Fun! GoUNESCO, 25th September 2017

On 25th of September 2017, IHCNF participated in the GoUNESCO's global social media campaign called #makeheritagefun. This initiative by GoUNESCO is aimed at celebrating local heritage, globally. The campaign takes place once every three months, where on a particular Sunday, people from around the world are encouraged to raise awareness about their local heritage (cultural or natural or both) by interacting with it and sharing their experience (photos, videos) on various social media platform. The campaign is bound together by a common hashtag-#makeheritagefun, to amplify the reach of all participating heritage enthusiasts.

The IHCNF team from their respective site offices, i.e. Bidar, Badami, Bijapur, Bangalore and Gulbarga, went around their towns/cities to capture the tangible and the intangible heritage and create awareness about the heritage, globally through the #makeheritagefun campaign.



IHCNF Bangalore office made a trip to KR Market