

## INTACH

### **Minutes of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Body Meeting of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) held on Saturday, the 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 at 11.30 A.M. at INTACH's Office, 71, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi – 110 003**

Maj. Gen. (Retd.) L.K. Gupta, Chairman, INTACH presided over the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Body Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2017. Eighty five INTACH members participated in the AGM as per Annexure – 1.

2. Member-Secretary welcomed the members of INTACH to the AGM. At the outset, she mentioned the names of members whose sad demise had occurred during the year 2016 (list of the Members is at Annexure – 2). All the members observed two minutes silence to pay homage to the deceased members. After which the Member Secretary requested Chairman to conduct the proceedings.

3. The Chairman welcomed the members to the AGM and conveyed his very best wishes to them and their families. The Chairman in his speech covered the following main points:-

3.1 Chapters & Members are the invisible spirit “Atman” that powers INTACH. During the year I had the privilege of interacting with convenors of the chapters at the state level meetings of UP, Tamil Nadu, MP, Maharashtra, Bihar, Orissa, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Haryana, AP & Telegana, J&K besides also visiting some Chapters. During the year, New chapters were added at some significant centers of culture, such as, at Dibrugarh in North Assam, Jalandhar in the Doaba region in Punjab, Belgium now Belgavi and Chapters of Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka and Darbhanga in North Bihar. Our attempt is to bring all such remaining significant cultural regions within the ambit of INTACH as early as possible.

3.2 Our chapters all along are being encouraged and assisted to stand on their own feet, in accordance with the philosophy of the founding of INTACH, i.e. public must be involved in the protection and conservation of heritage since Govt. alone cannot protect it. People therefore must become aware of it & contribute in its conservation. Such examples are emerging in the working of our chapters – to state only a few

- (a) Dharwad Chapter – had established a local museum with help from central office. This museum is now named as Sudha Murthy INTACH Heritage Museum Dharwad – as the chapter has received a grant of Rs.10 lacs from Sudha Murthy foundation for its up-keep. This has been further followed up by a grant of Rs. 1 lac from Karnataka Govt.
- (b) Kodaikanal Chapter – Has restored Kodaikanal library with a donation of Rs. 5 lacs by our Convnor Mrs. Geeta Srinivasan.
- (c) Tamil Nadu State Chapter – Has helped in grant of permission by the State Govt. to the Villages of Maruvathur and vedal near Kanchipuram to restore their own temples. Villages have been also helped with drawings of the temple and expertise to restore.

Such examples are now multiplying and in my interaction with Chapters members, it is being emphasized that for the protection of culture and heritage, especially in the unprotected category, public need to come forward & contribute.

3.3 You will be happy to know that Govt. of Madhya Pradesh has now invited your Trust to be, their consultant for conservation of all temples in the state. A MOU will be sent to the Govt. for approval as asked by them. Similarly the railways have approached INTACH to assist and train their engineers in listing & documentation of the railway heritage as also to share the knowledge of conservation engineering with them. Further that the Govt. of Telegana had made a formal request to set up an INTACH, Conservation Laboratory & a draft MOU has been sent for approval.

3.4 In June 2016, I had visited Cambodia, on the request of APSARA – APSARA is like our ASI, a Govt. of Cambodia institution, to sign a MOU with them, to share and provide knowledge on conservation of Heritage. The MOU was signed in the presence of their Deputy Prime Minister and an international gathering of 60 leading countries of the world i.e. under the aegis of UNESCO, UK, France, USA, Italy, China, Japan and so on. It was milestone for your Trust, who for the first time had been invited to provide knowledge & expertise to a sister nation, as compared to our earlier situation where we were always at the receiving end of the advice. As a follow up of this MOU, we have received two representatives from Cambodia to train with us for one month i.e. from 1<sup>st</sup> Feb. to 28 Feb 2017. With this, we can with pride, claim ourselves as having international expertise in conservation of heritage in this part of the World. As a matter of fact, in my speech before signing of MOU, I had stated that we at INTACH possess international expertise.

3.5 Continuing with International involvement A 2-day international workshop on Techniques and Instruments for Conservation of Monuments and artefacts was co-hosted by INTACH in collaboration with Ministry of External Affairs, Govt of India with 70 participants from ASEM Countries including India. The aim of the workshop was to share the advancements in conservation techniques and instruments amongst the ASEM countries and create an environment of shared learning and progress.

During the above conference, we had also unveiled a critical publication that elaborates on the concept and application of Creative Economy in India, demystifying the prevailing and overlapping notions of cultural industry, creative industry and cultural economy. It also included case studies of heritage-linked economies in the cities of Agra, Jaipur, Bagru, Chanderi, Lucknow and Sanganer.

3.6 Charles Wallace India Trust is a sister Trust of INTACH located in LONDON. The Trust helps Indian students with scholarships to train in all aspects of conservation be it architecture, arts & so on. INTACH is represented on their selection panel for scholarships. We have robust annual interactions with this trust. This year we have requested them to reorient their training programmes to meet new requirements to focus on traditional materials.

3.7 Our Heritage Education programmes have this year covered a larger No. of schools i.e. 453 schools & colleges, trained 805 teachers and interacted with 2.97 lac students. Further 87 Chapters participated in Heritage Quiz programme conducted in local language for the first time and 104 chapters participating in My City my Heritage programme as record.

3.8 In the working of our AH Division, we have shifted focus from projects towards more research and policy initiative, significant among them were- Mission Municipalika, Study on Socio-economic development of historic city, Technical assistance to various chapters for protecting Heritage at Risk, Cultural Impact Assessment for New development in vicinity of A.S.I Monuments. Another step taken was to get its projects Peer reviewed. The reviewers have found conservation efforts of AH inspirational and of good practice. Based on this reputations, many govt departments are approaching AHD to sign MOUs for conserving their heritage buildings like Dept. of Culture, Govt. of Bihar, Devasthan Dept & PWD of Madhya Pradesh, Indian Navy for Clive Library in Chennai, APWD Andamans & Nicobar Island.

3.9 Another important focus of your Trust has been to stress on conservation of our ecological assets and our Natural Heritage. Some of such major initiatives taken during the year were:

- a) Despite all efforts and massive resources national river Ganga has not been cleaned. INTACH has shown that unconventional treatment of Assi Nadi at Varanasi can be done at a fraction of the official cost and swiftly, using the technique of bioremediation and simple on line filtration. The pollution load in Assi Nadi was reduced by 70% and foul odours eliminated. This was applauded by the residents living along the Nala.
- b) Sustainable agriculture : Agriculture employs 45% of the work force of the country. Modern farming has exhausted soils while increasing water inputs. Your Trust has carried out pilot projects in Bharatpur and Khajuraho using traditional farming techniques which improve the soil while conserving water. Traditional seed bank and repertoire of old cuisine recipes is being built up. Farmers workshops are being held to increase the area under sustainable farming
- c) PILs have been instituted to protect our wetlands. In February National Green Tribunal has passed orders for the protection of Najafgarh Jheel. In Barmer district wetlands at Korna are similarly being protected by PILs so as to maintain drinking water resources and habitats.
- d) Geoheritage: A lead has been taken in this area with the publication of Monograph highlighting the neglected status of the 26 National Geoheritage monuments. The 2500 years old zinc mining site at Zawar [Udaipur] has been surveyed for a conservation-cum-tourism plan. Two of the largest meteorite craters are to be taken up in the coming year. State wise seminars are also planned this year.
- e) We have also focused upon the sorry state of India's rivers state wise and helped redefine river health assessment methodology. AS a model the conservation plan for river Hindon is under preparation.

- f) Natural heritage documentation of districts such as Sawai Madhopur and Nalanda has been completed. Elsewhere sacred groves and heritage trees have been listed. Moreover listing of traditional waterbodies in 12 districts of Rajasthan has been completed over last three years. This needs a major push.

3.10 During the year a path breaking programme of Cultural Mapping of the Denotified and Nomadic Communities/Tribes with a view to preparing a comprehensive conservation plan has been taken up. This is a significant project which would be of great value as an ethnographic study, a listing of ICH elements, and documentation of the language of the above communities, which constitute 6 to 8% of our population.

3.11 Further we are concentrating on the creation of an online database on existing research and documentation in the field of intangible heritage – this will be a listing of published works available in government/non-government organizations, libraries and academic institutions across the country. This will serve as a ready resource in this field for researchers to consult and thus undertake more meaningful research, and to avoid duplication of research.

3.12 You will recall that last year, I had mentioned that we are upgrading our conservation laboratories with modern tools. We have now added a research wing to focus on the evaluation of conservation treatments being practiced traditionally as well as the use of modern materials. Our project on documentation of wall paintings is making a steady progress of having documented more than 3 lac square ft of painted walls & ceilings in different states.

3.13 You will be happy to know, that for better management of heritage sites and scientific conservation, a one year post-graduate Diploma course has been started with the Deccan College in Pune on an experimental basis. The course is being run on weekends. IHA has provided the structure, content and curriculum for the course. The participants in the multi-disciplinary course include archaeologists, architects, conservation architects, art historians, conservators, engineers, heritage contractors, researchers, PhD students, journalists and so forth.

3.14 In the end, may I admit that there are certain challenges that remain for us :-

- a) Chapters need to mobilize more efforts by way of resource persons to carry out listing and documentation of unprotected heritage be it Tangible & Intangible, which is basic to our awareness and conservation programmes.
- b) Increase networking with other local stake holders
- c) To make arrangements for basic connect with not only members and also greater number of citizens both rural & urban.

Hence our focus during the ensuing year will be to push chapters towards more and more interactive programmes, to become participants in great cause of protecting & conserving the heritage of our country – also our constitutional duty.

4. Dr. Misra, Member Secretary took opportunity to welcome the members to the AGM. In her report, she mentioned the following salient points:-

4.1 With the support and blessings of all the members of INTACH, we have taken considerable strides in making heritage conservation a national movement. May I take this opportunity to supplement the Chairman's detailed talk with a few more points.

4.2 The last two years have been years of consolidation and collaboration for INTACH. Both the Chapters and the Headquarters geared themselves to functioning at a more intense level. The Chapters being the local representatives of INTACH took up the challenge and up-scaled their activities in the field of natural, built and living heritage conservation and conducted numerous educational workshops in partnership with the Headquarters to create awareness and spread the message of INTACH.

4.3 We observe a fresh enthusiasm among the Chapters Convenors and Members both new and old. Chapters are contributing immensely in awareness creation of environmental protection, conservation of built heritage and saving intangible cultural treasures of the country. Many Chapters are keen to take up challenging issues and projects and are bearing the flag of INTACH at the local level by striving to include the community in heritage conservation. Every Division at the Headquarters has been supporting the Chapters both technically and in many cases financially, whenever there has been a request.

4.4 As on March 2017 there are 196 Chapters spread across the country with a total membership of over 8622. The endeavour to enrol members of repute, with interest in INTACH's mission and activities will continue in the coming years. The conveners & Co-Conveners name and contact details are regularly updated on the INTACH website and 184 chapters have functional e-mails. An updated Conveners directory incorporating all amendments was disseminated.

4.5 A total of 145 Chapters have submitted the annual audited accounts while 85 Chapters have submitted their annual activity reports. During the year approximately 467 new members were added across all categories. The following new Chapters were established during the last two years: Guntur-Andhra Pradesh, Bhagalpur-Bihar, Vaishali-Bihar, Palwal-Haryana, Jajpur-Odisha, Sonapur-Odisha, Dhar-Madhya Pradesh, Darbhanga-Bihar, Dibrugarh-Assam, Belagavi-Karnataka, Jalandhar-Punjab.

4.6 To articulate a more forward looking and inclusive vision of INTACH a meeting of all the State Conveners, was organized at INTACH. An orientation meeting for the new conveners was held at the central office in March 2017. Some experienced conveners attended the conference to share their experiences with the newly appointed conveners. During the year, two Capacity Building Workshops for members of INTACH Chapters was held in 2017. Inter-chapter interaction and collaboration provides synergy and facilitates capacity building.

4.7 In addition to the visits of the Chairman to Chapters, the Director Chapters visited Patna, Dhar, Punjab, Pune, Varanasi, Mandla, Gwalior, Bhagalpur, Guwahati, Shillong and Coimbatore. Principal Directors and others officials of central office visited almost 90-95 chapters in connection with various meetings, seminars and ongoing projects. Many chapters networked with schools, colleges, universities and like-minded institutions. As a result of these interactions more than three lakhs students, youth and the general population were directly impacted and sensitized about heritage and associated issues.

#### 4.8 INTACH KNOWLEDGE CENTRE

One of the most significant steps taken by INTACH is setting up of the INTACH Knowledge Centre, as INTACH purports to be the repository of knowledge on heritage matters in the country. All important work done in the last 32 years by INTACH, including those of the Chapters are being documented and digitized and kept in the INTACH Knowledge Centre. This will form the history and archive of INTACH. It will be open and available to researchers and all those who are interested in knowing about the heritage of the country.

INTACH Knowledge Centre (IKC) has digitized all the listings, project reports, archival files, maps/plans/panels/posters and INTACH MoUs. This work was done in collaboration with IGNCA from 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2017 and will enable users to easily access the IKC holdings.

The IKC has also moved into its newly designed and expanded space, in which all its segments are well integrated.

4.9 Every Division of INTACH has made important contribution spreading the knowledge and work of conservation and the importance of community involvement in protecting its heritage by taking up not only projects but using these projects for demonstration and awareness creation. As a point in case the Natural Heritage Division has taken up the documentation of baolies, traditional water structures and lakes of Rajasthan to draw attention of the State Government to include this very important heritage of the State to re-generate these baolies for the purpose of water conservation. 100 structures have been taken up by Government of Rajasthan for conservation work including 28 from the Shekhawati Region. INTACH is happy that its work has resulted in Government's initiative in taking up these water structures for conservation and tourism purposes. Similarly projects and the Documentation of the Sacred Lakes in the Himalayas such as: Manimahesh (H.P.), Dodital (Uttarakhand), Vasuki (Uttarakhand), Deoria (Uttarakhand) which are associated with religious legends and are of significant pilgrimage destination have been documented and recommended for conservation to the respective State Governments. A unique project on the Documentation and Study of the Rudraksha Tree which is of religious significance has resulted in Rudraprayag Panchayat permitting INTACH to afforest its land with 1000 rudraksh trees on the fragile slopes of the District. A creative project on the conservation of agriculture and training in traditional and sustainable agriculture has been taken up in Central Madhya Pradesh

with a aim of bringing the community of farmers to the traditional farming practices which will benefit the soil and water quality in the region.

4.10 A project for the revival of the Old Pilgrim Routes to Kedarnath is being researched and documented so that it can be used for evacuation in case of natural disaster and also facilitate eco-tourism activities.

4.11 The very important initiative on the preparation of the 'State of Built Heritage of India' (SoBHI) with a pan-India focus on the unprotected built heritage of the country has been completed. It is hoped that this Study will be seminal work on the State of Unprotected Built Heritage of India as on date. INTACH has taken up an endangered site in Rajasthan, the 600 year old Laxminath Temple in Jolpa for restoration with shramdan and support of the village people.

4.12 The Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY) Programme in Varanasi is progressing steadily albeit with a constant challenge due to procedural and local considerations. The Urban Development Ministry has suo-moto asked INTACH to take up ten streetscape projects in Varanasi.

4.13 Some prestigious work in Rashtrapati Bhawan were taken up by the Art and Material Heritage Division to conserve 9 wall paintings, 2 textile paintings and some paper work on a turn-key basis for the new museum which was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. An important development was the setting up of the Lime Testing Unit at the Lucknow Centre to undertake scientific research on lime and its properties. During the year a major initiative was taken to prepare a Directory of Wall Paintings in India which are disappearing at a fast pace due to neglect. This mammoth task was undertaken by appointing surveyors at different States under the guidance of a central team. The ultimate objective is to document, digitize and to do emergency conservation and research on these wall paintings.

4.14 The INTACH Heritage Academy brought out its second Journal on "Intangible Cultural Heritage in India". The Journal aims to encourage critical thinking and debate over the meaning of heritage and its relevance for society at large. It is an interdisciplinary and peer-reviewed journal which has been received exceedingly well. Besides, numerous training programmes were conducted by the IHA for Chapters to build their capacity.

4.15 INTACH offered 3 Research Scholarship to U.K. citizens to enable them to travel to India and to follow any course of study or research in the field of art and cultural heritage which will be beneficial to either or both countries. During the year 12 scholarship grants were awarded to individuals in India to undertake advanced and interdisciplinary research that demonstrates potential impact on conservation philosophy, practice and policy. The Research will be brought out as a publication.

4.16 A one year post-graduate Diploma course has been started with the Deccan College in Pune on an experimental basis. The course is being run on weekends. IHA

has provided the structure, content and curriculum for the course. The participants in the multi-disciplinary course include archaeologists, architects, conservation architects, art historians, conservators, engineers, heritage contractors, researchers, PhD students, journalists and so forth.

4.17 The Heritage Tourism Division has taken up many guide training programmes and supported Chapters to document and conduct heritage walks. It collaborated with the Tourism portal of HolidayIQ to encourage travelers to discover heritage destinations.

4.18 The Heritage Craft and Community Division put up two very well received exhibitions at the Green Park Metro Station known as “**The Medieval City of Siri**” and “**Bagh-E-Jud**” at the Jor Bagh, Metro Station.

4.19 International visitors to INTACH were from Bhutan, Cambodia, France, Thailand, Slovakia, Lithuania, Sweden, Japan, Holland, Mongolia, Italy, U.K., China, Norway, Germany and Singapore.

4.20 INTACH continued to upgrade its infrastructure including its laboratories in Bangalore and Kolkata. The Finance and Administration Divisions worked in placing many systems which have led to improved financial and administrative discipline.

4.21 The scope and canvass of INTACH’s work is continuously expanding and with the support and blessings of its members, INTACH is achieving its mission steadfastly milestone by milestone. Yet we have a long way to traverse....

I wish all the members a very happy and productive 2017.

5. Thereafter the Member-Secretary took up the agenda items:-

**Item No.1:- To confirm the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 19.03.2016**

The Minutes were confirmed.

**Item No.2:- To consider action taken report with regard to the points raised at the AGM held on 19.3.2016**

The Action Taken Note was noted and approved.

On the documentation of pre-historic sites and caves in Morena, Madhya Pradesh, Shri Mahesh Datt Mishra mentioned that the documentation has not been undertaken even though he had mentioned the suggestion at the last meeting.

Chairman assured that this will be done during the course of the year.

Chairman observed that voluntary work is always appreciated.



**Item No. 3 To consider and adopt the Annual Report for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2016**

The General Body at its meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 resolved that the Annual Report of INTACH for 2015-16 be adopted as recommended by the Governing Council in its meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2016.

Shri A.K. Jain and Dr. Deepak Kumar Baxi congratulated INTACH for the excellent annual report. Shri Jain suggested that in order to reduce the cost, the report can be sent to the members online.

**Item No. 4 To consider and adopt the Audited Statement of Accounts for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2016**

The General Body at its meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 resolved that the Audited Statement of Accounts of INTACH for 2015-16 be adopted as recommended by the Governing Council in its meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2016.

It was suggested that more support should go to the Chapters. Chairman clarified that apart from the administrative support of more than Rs. 31 lakhs, substantial funds of more than Rs. 3 crore are provided to the Chapters or spent for their benefits under Special Corpus Fund Projects by ICH, AH, Listing Cell, Chapters, NH, HT and HECS Divisions. Our General Fund is under great pressure and we want to conserve the maximum resources because of large commitments on this fund.

**Item No. 5 Appointment of Auditors for the year 2016-2017**

Shri Lalit Surjan suggested that as the General Body meeting is held once a year and that too in the closing month of the financial year, power may be delegated to the Executive Committee of INTACH for appointment of Auditors and fixing their remuneration. The suggestion was approved by the General Body. The following two resolutions were passed:

- (a) The General Body at its meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 resolved that the Appointment of present Auditors Thakur, Vaidyanath Aiyar & Company for Audit of INTACH accounts for the financial year 2016-2017 be approved as recommended by the Governing Council in its meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2016 with 5% increase in the remuneration paid to them for the year 2015-16.
- (b) The General Body also resolved to delegate power for appointment of auditors and determination of their remuneration to the Executive Committee of INTACH.

**Item No.6: Declaration of results of Election to the Governing Council held through Postal Ballot**

Member Secretary requested the Returning Officer to declare the election results.

Shri V.K. Aggarwal, Director (Admn.) and Returning Officer declared the results of the elections of members to the Governing Council in the various categories as per the following details:-

**Founder Members Category**

For the 4 vacancies in the Founder Members category, only two nominations of Shri O.P. Jain and Prof. A.G. Krishna Menon were received, who were declared elected unopposed.

**Life Members Category**

Against the 6 vacancies in the Life members category 22 valid nominations were received. The nomination of Ms. Maalvika Pathania was rejected due to technical reasons. One nomination of Shri D. Suresh Nandha, Puducherry was received after the last date of receipt of nomination which was also rejected. The votes polled by each of the 22 candidates are as follows:-

Sl.No.	Name	No. of votes
1.	Er. Ashok Chandra Joshi	143
2.	Shri Ashok Singh Thakur	603
3.	Er. Deepak Kumar Baxi	181
4.	Shri Jaydev Nansey	322
5.	Kanwar Bhim Singh	137
6.	Dr.Krishna Kolharkulkarni	294
7.	Smt. L. Seshakumari	247
8.	Shri Lalit Surjan	393
9.	Shri L.N. Aggarwal	154
10.	Shri M. Gopalakrishna	339
11.	Shri Madan Mohan Upadhyay	362
12.	Dr. Pushpendra Singh Ranawat	286
13.	Shri P. Rohming Thanga	166
14.	Col. R.D. Singh (Retd.)	216
15.	Shri Rizwan R Siddiqui	94
16.	Shri Sanjay Pande	258
17.	Air. Com. S.S. Tyagi	189
18.	Ms. Sujatha Shankar	447
19.	Shri S. Tariq Ibrahim	254
20.	Dr. Virendra Kumar Dubey	149
21.	Shri V.K. Kapoor	339
22.	Shri Yogenda Narain	276

The following 6 candidates were elected to the Governing Council from the Life Members category:-

1. Shri Ashok Singh Thakur
2. Ms. Sujatha Shankar
3. Shri Lalit Surjan
4. Shri Madan Mohan Upadhyay
5. Shri M. Gopalakrishna
6. Shri V.K. Kapoor

### **Ordinary Members category**

For the two vacancies in the Ordinary Members category, five nominations were received. The votes polled by each of the candidates are as follows:-

Sl.No.	Name	No. of votes
1.	Shri Ashok Kumar Sharma	37
2.	Ms. Dharmendar Kanwar	42
3.	Dr. Kamakshi Maheshwari	98
4.	Ms. Ritu Sethi	29
5.	Dr. Vishwapati Trivedi	17

Dr. Kamakshi Maheshwari, who got 98 votes and Ms. Dharmendar Kanwar, who got 42 votes were declared elected.

### **Donor Members Category**

Against one vacancy in the Donor Members category, two nominations were received. The votes polled by each of the candidates are:

Sl.No.	Name	No. of votes
1.	DCM Shriram Industries Ltd.	1
2.	Ms. Diya Kumari	5

Ms. Diya Kumari who got 5 votes was declared elected from Donor members category.

### **Corporate Members Category**

For the two vacancies in the Corporate Members category, no nomination was received. The two vacancies will remain vacant till the next year.

### **Institutional Members category**

There was no vacancy and therefore, no election was held in this category.

### **Item No. 7: Any other matter with the permission of the Chair**

7.1 Ms. Manisha Singh, Assistant Editor of INTACH invited Shri P.S. Negi Loktus, IAS (Retd.), Kinnaur, Lahaul and Spiti Chapter to present a copy of his book 'Cultural Heritage of Trans-Himalaya' to the Chairman, INTACH. Shri Loktus presented the book to the Chairman. Shri Loktus was requested to speak about the book. Shri Loktus mentioned that the book is a study of cultural heritage of the trans-Himalayan area of Himachal Pradesh, especially Kinnaur district.

7.2 Chairman appreciated the book and thanked Shri Negi for working on the book since a very long time. It is a seminal work and very well done. Chairman added that he is proud of this work and wished Shri Negi to continue the work in this very fragile region as it is his lifelong passion. Ms. Asha Vasant Sheth and other members also appreciated the book and congratulated the Author.

Thereafter, Chairman requested the members to raise issues, if any, and give their suggestions. During the General discussions, some of the members made the following observations and suggestions:-

7.3 Shri A.K. Jain suggested that

- (a) The digitization of the books started by INTACH is a very good idea. It should be made available to the members online.
- (b) A lot of heritage is lying in the Museum in U.K. The artifacts and such heritage should be brought back to India through the Ministry of External Affairs. There should not be any question of copy right on such items which belong to India.
- (c) The focus of activities in the coming year should be in Punjab and we should compliment Capt. Amarinder Singh for getting elected as Chief Minister.

7.4 Shri Arun Srivastava suggested that the nation is celebrating the centenary of Satyagraha movement which was started by Mahatma Gandhi Ji. INTACH should organize heritage walks and other programmes and also open a Chapter in Betia, a town in West Champaran from where the movement was started.

7.5 Er. Deepak Kumar Baxi suggested that the Chapters of UP, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal should send a proposal to the Government of India for Ganga to be listed as a World Heritage by the UNESCO.

7.6 Shri Ashok Kumar Sharma, Convenor of Morena Chapter requested that the DPRs which were sent by him may be approved. Shri Sharma informed that in order to introduce the people to the heritage of the area, a private operator has started Bus service on every Sunday to Mitawli, Batawli, Bateshwar, etc.

7.7 Dr. Shantanu Lahkar handed over two documents relating to the heritage of Dibrugarh Heritage Railway Station which was started at the same time when the Mumbai Station was set up and of the building relating to the first medical hospital started in the North-East region in Dibrugarh in 1885.

Chairman thanked Dr. Lahkar for submitting the documents and informed him that the matter will be taken up with the Ministry of Railways for conservation of Dibrugarh station on priority basis. A plan has been prepared by INTACH for the conservation of the medical science building of Berry White. The matter is being pursued by the local Convenor.

7.8 A member suggested that INTACH should look into the matter of indigenous Jadi Buti (medicinal plants) like Satavar, White Musli being exploited by certain companies.

Chairman requested him to send more specific details/information for any action to be taken.

7.9 It was suggested that the detailed map of Saraswati river from the Himalayas upto Somnath prepared by ONGC should be displayed in a museum.

7.10 Dr. Neena Dey Gupta wanted to know whether the earlier practice of inviting the Convenors to present their grass root activities at the AGM has been discontinued.

Chairman clarified that the grass root level activities of the Chapters are published every quarter in the INTACH Virasat newsletter and also in the Annual Report. The practice of presentation at the AGM was discontinued for the reason that no time was left, after the presentations, for discussions of the issues and problems and the agenda of the AGM. The earlier practice of presentations from the Convenors was mainly to utilize the time when the participants in the AGM were waiting for the result of counting of votes of elections to the Governing Council on the day of the AGM. As the counting process is now completed one day before the AGM, it is no longer necessary to hold such presentations by the Convenors.

7.11 Shri Rajya Pal Sharma, Convenor of Jhalawar Chapter referring to face book/ social media pages of INTACH suggested that suitable guidelines should be issued for posting/putting information on the face book/social media. Chairman assured him that suitable guidelines will be prepared and circulated to all the Chapters.

7.12 Col. (Retd.) R.D. Singh requested that Certificates for participation of 'My City My Heritage' programme may be given on the concluding day itself.

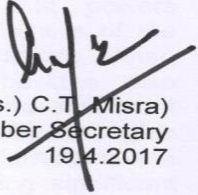
7.13 Ms. Asha V. Sheth congratulated Chairman and INTACH on the excellent work done during the year and the programme planned for the coming year. She suggested that the members of the Chapters should meet, write and work out a clear annual programme in the same way as done in the Central Office. We should concentrate on a plan which will be sustainable and substantial.

7.14 Shri Shyam Sunder Joshi, Co-Convenor of Bhilwara Chapter, Rajasthan suggested inter-state visits to those Chapters who have done a great job in the field of conservation or any other heritage aspects to learn and adopt it in their own Chapter.

Chairman thanked Shri Joshi for the suggestion. Chairman also clarified that we should congratulate Shri Lalit Surjan, Chairman of the Chapters Advisory Committee, who has already suggested cross-Chapter interaction which has been accepted by the Executive Committee. Modalities for such Chapter visits are being planned.

8. In conclusion, Chairman thanked all the members for sparing their time to attend the AGM and giving their suggestions which will be taken on board. He also requested them to give their suggestions from time to time, even outside the AGM.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair and all the members who attended the AGM.



(Dr. (Mrs.) C.T. Misra)  
Member Secretary  
19.4.2017

**To all the members of INTACH**