



NEWSLETTER

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Cohort of 2024 - Symposium for the course Indigenous Knowledge Systems

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Centre's Highlights

6TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON HERITAGE MANAGEMENT, EDUCATION AND PRACTICE: CLIMATE CHANGE, ECOLOGY AND HERITAGE SUSTAINABILITY, IN COLLABORATION WITH INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS (IGNCA) FROM 14 -16 NOVEMBER 2025

The Centre is pleased to announce its 6th Annual Conference on Heritage Management, Education and Practice, on the theme: Climate Change, Ecology and Heritage Sustainability, in collaboration with Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) from 14 -16 November 2025. This interdisciplinary conference invites academicians, students, researchers, and practitioners to explore the complex interactions between climate change, environmental changes, and cultural heritage.

The impacts of climate change on cultural heritage extend beyond physical damage to historical sites, affecting traditional practices and eroding the social fabric of communities. As ecosystems change, indigenous ways of life face unprecedented challenges, disrupting intergenerational transmission of knowledge. While traditional ecological knowledge offers invaluable strategies for resilience, these methods alone are no longer sufficient due to the scale and unpredictability of contemporary environmental crises. Thus, integrating traditional knowledge with scientific advancements is essential for comprehensive climate adaptation strategies.

The conference aims to foster cross-disciplinary dialogue and collaborative action in cross-cutting areas of inquiry, like Bridging Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Modern Science for Climate Solutions, Role of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) in Climate Change Adaptations, Oracles, Shamans, Climate Change and Embodied Ecologies, etc.

REYAAN - KUTCH SYMPOSIUM



Cohort of 2024 during Reyaan - Kutch Symposium

The Centre hosted Reyaan, a symposium led by first-year students after their week-long field visit to Kutch as part of the Indigenous Knowledge Systems course. Reyaan examined the connections between language, music, ecology, architecture, craftsmanship, and local economies, showcasing the complexity of knowledge systems in the area. The symposium focused on six interrelated themes: languages and oral traditions, ecological knowledge of mangroves, vernacular architecture, traditional crafts, and changing textile practices. These themes highlighted how cultural memory, community strength, and ecological sustainability are woven into Kutch's indigenous knowledge systems.

Centre's Highlights

THESIS DEFENCE OF THE GRADUATING STUDENTS



Challenges of Heritage Interpretation and Management: The case of complex religious sites

Ng Yiu Tong, Anthony, defended his thesis under the guidance of Professor Neel Kamal Chapagain. His thesis aimed at an in-depth case study of the unlisted Sufi shrine, examining how different stakeholders have interpreted this heritage landscape.



From Marketplaces to Cultural Interfaces: Revitalising Ahmedabad's Urban Haats for Sustainable Artisan Futures

Trupti Dave defended her thesis under the guidance of Professor Tana Trivedi and Professor Aditya Kanth. Her thesis explored Ahmedabad's traditional haats as living heritage spaces and the challenges of decline and modern retail competition.



The Kathi Beadwork of Sejakpar: Community, Craft and Contemporary Market Dynamics

Ritu Rajguru defended her thesis under the guidance of Professor Molly Kaushal. This thesis explored the beadwork craft of the Kathi community of Saurashtra, tracing how it has endured over the years both as a cultural tradition and a source of livelihood while also examining the craft's place in contemporary markets.



Contemporary Challenges of Kalbeliya Heritage: Safeguarding Cultural Identity and Scope of a Community Museum

Dishita Suthar defended her thesis under the guidance of Professor Aditya Kanth. Her thesis explored how the Kalbeliya community of Rajasthan maintains its cultural identity while facing social and economic changes, and the impact of UNESCO's 2010 recognition.



Calcutta Chinese Food and Its Associated Cultural Spaces as Potential Heritage: The Case of Chinese Eateries In Kolkata and Its Transition

Nandana Sanker defended her thesis under the guidance of Professor Neel Kamal Chapagain. This thesis explored the gastronomic landscape of Kolkata's Tiretta Bazaar and Tangra, the two Chinatowns of the city, examining how Calcutta Chinese food is not merely places of food but also sites of diasporic memory, resilience, belonging, and identity.



Kalighat Painting Tradition: Metacultural Discourse, Recontextualisation and Revival

Deblina Chatterjee defended her thesis under the guidance of Professor Molly Kaushal. Her thesis explored the repositioning of the Kalighat painting tradition through metacultural discourse.

Centre's Highlights



Managing' Visual Arts in Contemporary India

Ansh Dattani defended his thesis under the guidance of Professor Ranu Roychowdhury. His thesis traced the genealogy of arts management in post-Independence India across both diplomatic and commercial fronts.

CONVOCATION 2025



Graduates with the Professors at the Centre

The Centre is pleased to announce the graduation of nine students who successfully earned their Master's degrees in Management Studies with a specialisation in Heritage Management from Ahmedabad University on May 15, 2025.

Through their unwavering dedication and hard work, they have made significant strides in the field of Heritage Management. As they embark on their individual journeys to pursue their dreams and aspirations, the Centre extends its heartfelt congratulations to these graduates.

THE CENTRE WELCOMES PROFESSOR ADITYA GHOSH



The Centre is delighted to announce the joining of Professor Aditya Ghosh as a Professor. He is a human geographer who examines sustainability challenges across postcolonial geographies amidst rapid climatic changes, employing indigenous knowledge systems. He is particularly interested in understanding traditional environmental knowledge and human-nonhuman-more-than-human interactions to develop evidence-based, localised sustainability governance. He has 25 years of experience spanning research, teaching, policy advocacy, and journalism and has been recognised with prestigious global awards such as the Chevening Scholarship (UK-FCO), DAAD Guest Scientist Grant (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst), and the Asian Journalism Awards, among others.

Centre's Highlights

PRACTICUM - COHORT OF 2024-26



Amitoj Kaur worked at Avani, a Kumaon-based non-profit organisation that works on areas on sustainable livelihoods and traditional crafts. During her practicum she created promotional materials and product catalogues for textiles, art supplies, natural dyes, and lifestyle products, engaging on-ground activities at rural centres.



Anoli Ruia worked at the Umang Hutheesing flagship store, where she was actively involved in exploring the rich family archive and the heritage of Indian textiles. She engaged with rare fabrics, exquisite embroidery and historical garments, gaining firsthand experience with India's textile history.



Anushka Mishra worked with the UNESCO Cell at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi, gaining experience in heritage documentation and policy. She helped organize the UNESCO Workshop on Documentary Heritage and the Capacity Building Workshop on Nomination Dossiers for the UNESCO Memory of the World (MoW) Registers.



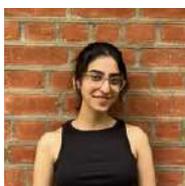
Ishika Jain worked at the INTACH Chitrakala Parishat Art Conservation Institute in Bangalore under senior conservators as part of the INTACH Conservation Institutes (ICI) unit, focusing on the conservation of paintings, paper, textiles, sculptures, and wall paintings, while also engaging in research to enhance conservation practices.



S Lakshmy worked with the Muziris Heritage Project Ltd. in Kerala, focusing on updating museum displays, enhancing visitor experiences, and managing accessions, while gaining insights into tourism and heritage site management through the project's connection with the Department of Tourism.



Lasya KP worked at the India Foundation for the Arts (IFA) in Bangalore, gaining hands-on experience in archiving. Her responsibilities include organising, cataloguing materials, verifying metadata, and preparing items for preservation, providing unique insights into India's contemporary art scene through IFA's projects.



Nidhi Menon worked as a Conservation Intern at the Museum of Art & Photography (MAP), Bengaluru. She gained hands-on experience under the guidance of senior conservators and museum professionals. This opportunity allowed her to learn about various aspects of conservation and material care.

Centre's Highlights



Nikita Singh worked as a Conservation Intern at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi. Her responsibilities included hands-on conservation of various materials such as paintings, paper, textiles, and metal artefacts. This work involved careful examination, stabilisation, and treatment to prevent deterioration.



Nishra Shah worked with Dharrini, an ecology and heritage conservation trust in Kerala, as part of Project Dhara. Her contributions included creating a socio-cultural archive and documenting oral narratives, highlighting the importance of living archives that preserve community memory and traditional knowledge.



Satyen Panara worked at the Savani Heritage Conservation office at the Gandhi Ashram, Sabarmati, under senior conservation professionals Dr. Ram and Kevin Savani. His role involved studying, documenting, and restoring historic buildings and cultural sites, along with learning about their proper management.



Shivika Sharma worked at the Directorate of Archaeology and Museums in Gandhinagar, focusing on operations and digitalisation of archival maps for the Archaeological Circle Office, Rajkot. She then moved to the Baroda Museum and Picture Gallery, exploring the cultural and educational roles of museums in the community.



Shreya Dhanyamraju worked at the recently established Archives and Museum of IIT Bombay in Mumbai, providing support for the current projects underway. IIT Bombay, one of the premier Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and well-known for its research, initiated its archives under the leadership of Professor Sumant Rao from the Industrial Design Centre (IDC).



Twarita Chauhan worked with Mosaic Bowl, a communication collective. The practicum was part of one of their projects, conceptualised as an exploratory documentation initiative focusing on Commons, Pastoralism, and Governance Strategies in western Rajasthan.



Dasi Yoga Rakshita worked with the Samata Organisation in Vishakapatnam, empowering Adivasis in the Eastern Ghats. Since 1990, they have advocated for the rights to natural resources. Her work focuses on analysing tourism's impact on local communities in this region, balancing development and heritage.

Centre's Highlights

THE CENTRE WELCOMED THE NEW STUDENTS, COHORT OF 2025-2027



Cohort of 2025-27 with CHM faculty

The Centre welcomed its new cohort of students with a series of engaging activities. The students had the opportunity to interact with the Centre's faculty and alumni, who shared their experiences and participated in various icebreaker activities. In addition, they toured the Ahmedabad University campus, gaining insight into the various extracurricular activities offered at the University.

VISIT TO IIM-A BRICK BY BRICK ARCHIVE AND HCP ARCHIVES

As part of the Museums and Archives Management course, first-year students from the Centre for Heritage Management and peers from Amrut Mody School of Management visited two archival institutions in Ahmedabad. At HCP Archives, guided by Anshu Bharti, students examined archival practices such as cataloguing, conservation, and digitisation. They learned about challenges like paper deterioration and the critical role of metadata. At the IIMA 'Brick by Brick' Archive, with guidance from Abhishek Mishra, they interacted with various collections, including graduating class seating plans, alum letters, and donated artefacts. These items illustrated the institution's history and memory. The visit revealed archive management's operational, ethical, and conservation aspects.



Students at the IIMA Brick by Brick Archive



Students at the HCP Archives

Centre's Highlights

THE PAST PRESERVED, THE FUTURE ACCESSED - A WORKSHOP ON DIGITISING AND CONSERVING LIBRARY ARCHIVES WORKSHOP CONDUCTED BY PROFESSOR ADITYA PRAKASH KANTH



Professor Aditya addressing the participants



Participants of the workshop

On 26th July, the Ahmedabad University Library, in collaboration with the Centre for Heritage Management, organised a workshop titled "The Past Preserved, The Future Accessed - A Workshop on Digitising and Conserving Library Archives." The session highlighted the significance of preserving archival heritage while adopting digital tools to enhance accessibility for future generations. Participants engaged with both conceptual discussions and hands-on exercises, exploring practical strategies in digitisation and conservation. The workshop successfully combined theoretical insights with experiential learning, offering a meaningful platform to understand and apply methods of archival preservation.

WORKSHOP CONDUCTED BY PROFESSOR ADITYA PRAKASH KANTH IN COLLABORATION WITH ELIXIR FOUNDATION AS A PART OF THE WORLD HERITAGE VOLUNTEERS PROGRAMME

As part of the World Heritage Volunteers programme, a workshop was conducted at Ahmedabad University by the Elixir Foundation in collaboration with the Centre for Heritage Management. Professor Aditya Kant led the session, introducing volunteers to the science of conserving materials such as paint and demonstrating methods of restoration. The workshop provided participants with valuable practical insights into heritage conservation, combining technical knowledge with hands-on learning.



Participants of the workshop

EXPERT TALK ON "CONSERVATION OF PAINTINGS: ART, SCIENCE AND ETHICS" BY NIKITA SHAH



Nikita Shah delivering the talk

As part of the Conservation Principles and Processes course, an expert talk titled "Conservation of Painting: Art, Science, and Ethics" was delivered by Nikita Shah, a paintings conservator at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, USA. The talk covered several key topics, including the definition of conservation, the need for retreatable conservation along with the significance of conservation training. Additionally, it addressed the ethical considerations involved in the conservation process, emphasising the importance of knowing when to cease conservation efforts.

Student's Activities

WORKSHOP WITH THE AWWW WALK CLUB CONDUCTED BY ANOLI RUIA



Anoli with participants of the workshop

Anoli Ruia, a second-year master's student at the centre, conducted a workshop with the AWWW Walk Club in Ahmedabad, where she introduced participants to making jewellery from scrap fabric. The session began with a conversation on textile waste and sustainability, followed by hands-on exploration of simple techniques to transform discarded fabric into wearable pieces. Through this workshop, she shared how sustainable design can be both accessible and meaningful, encouraging people to view everyday materials as opportunities for mindful making.

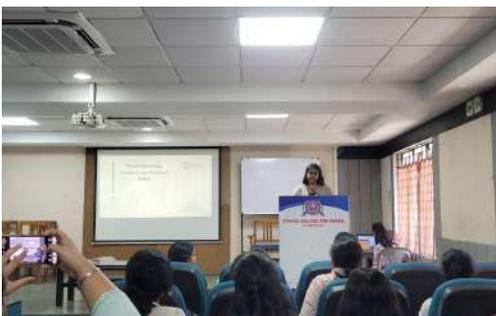
LASYA KP PRESENTED HER PAPER TITLED "DECOLONISING MUSEUMS: THE INDIAN CONTEXT" IN THE WORLD ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONGRESS-10 (WAC-10)

In June 2025, Lasya KP, a second-year student of the Centre, presented her paper titled "Decolonising Museums: The Indian Context" in the World Archaeological Congress- 10 (WAC-10) that took place in Darwin, Australia. This paper traces the evolution of Indian museums from colonial institutions to contemporary spaces engaging with identity narratives. It highlights the shift towards decolonised museums that prioritise people's voices and knowledge-making. The study argues for re-imagining museums in India as inclusive, participatory spaces rooted in the country's unique context.



Lasya at WAC-10 in Darwin, Australia

SHREYA DHANYAMRAJU PRESENTED HER PAPER TITLED "TRADE SANCTIONS, TOURISM, AND CULTURAL SHIFTS" AT THE NATIONAL STUDENTS' SEMINAR ON MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH & INNOVATION IN ACADEMIA AND INDUSTRY



Shreya presenting at the seminar

Shreya Dhanyamraju, a second-year student of the Centre, presented a paper titled "Trade Sanctions, Tourism, and Cultural Shifts" at the National Students' Seminar on Multidisciplinary Research & Innovation in Academia and Industry organised by Ethiraj College for Women, Chennai, on 10th March 2025. The paper traced the effect of long-term sanctions on the culture and international relations of sanctioned nations.

Student and Alumni Achievements

INVITED LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

Aakanksha Tated

- Research Presentation at Social History Curators Group Conference 2025 : June 2025

Sukrit Sen

- Artist Residency at IHE Delft: Sukrit Sen had the opportunity to serve as one of the inaugural artists-in-residence at the IHE Delft Institute for Water Education – the world's premier institution dedicated exclusively to water. This residency was part of the AQUAMUSE project, an initiative supported by the IHE Delft Water and Development Partnership Programme and led by the Living Waters Museum. He collaborated with researchers and practitioners from around the world, exploring how music can serve as a powerful medium to decolonise knowledge systems and reimagine water narratives.

Anshika Jain

- Jain, A. (2025, June 25). Funding for heritage, art and culture through corporate social responsibility in India [Conference presentation]. 23rd International Conference of the Association for Cultural Economics International (ACEI 2025), Erasmus University, Rotterdam.

Rutuja Sahasrabudhe

- Sahasrabudhe R., 'The Living Almanac: The Marathi Panchanga's Role in Sustaining Maharashtra's Traditions', UNESCO: Intangible Cultural Heritage Courier of Asia and the Pacific (ICHCAP Courier), V62, 2025

Krishna Priya Panicker

- Selected as the sole professional participant from India for the 'Summer School on Sustainable Conservation and Management of Archaeological Sites through reducing risks and building resilience' held from June 19 to July 9, 2025, organized by ICCROM, the University of Pennsylvania, and the Packard Humanities Institute in Ercolano, Italy.

Yiu Tong NG, Anthony

- Anthony Yiu-Tong NG (2025), "Uncommon Space: Dargahs and the Disruption of Normative Orders", CFP: International Seminar on "Themes in Historical Geography", South Asian History and Studies, Kannur University, Kerala, India, 3-5 June 2025. Anthony Yiu-Tong NG (2025), "Religious Diversity and Inclusiveness in Dargah in India", IACS Conference: "Co-Producing Spatial Rituals" Cluster, Walailak University, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Thailand, 23-25 July 2025.
- Climate Fellows Programme 2025, Ahmedabad University (The Climate Institute) and University of Chicago (Institute for Climate and Sustainable Growth), 7-19th July 2025.

Faculty Updates

INVITED LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS AND GOVERNMENT REPORTS

Professor Molly Kaushal

- Invited as an Expert on Traditional Knowledge to UNESCO Workshop on Living Root Bridges in Meghalaya, Government of Meghalaya. Participated as an Expert on Traditional Knowledge, Government of Meghalaya and UNESCO, 27-28 May, 2025
- *Precolonial, Colonial and Postcolonial Heritage Discourse in India*". International Conference "Art, Culture, and Values in India and Europe: Exchanges, Influences, and Evolving Dynamics", University School of Liberal Arts, Guru Govind Singh Indraprastha University, New Delhi, 1-2 June 2025

Government Reports:

- **Mahakumbh 2025 (In collaboration with School of Arts and Science) An Anthropological Study Report.** Department of Urban Development, Uttar Pradesh Government. The final report has been submitted. Work on the documentary and the Monograph in Progress. Carried out jointly with the School of Arts and Sciences.
- **Veer Balak Uddyan Project Report:** The final report submitted for Veer Balak Uddyan Project to the Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Gujarat. Worked for a park dedicated to child heroes in Indian History, beginning with the Vedic period through the medieval period and India's Freedom Movement.

Professor Aditya Prakash Kanth

- Invited to deliver a series of lectures on "Polymers in Conservation" at Indian Institute of Heritage, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, April 21-25, 2025

Professor Neel Kamal Chapagain

- World Wood Day Foundation Research Grant 2025-26: For Mapping Rapidly Declining Wooden Building Culture in Eastern Nepal and Exploring Prospects of Revival as a Sustainable Development Strategy

Professor A. Damodaran

- Presentation on 'Rising to the Challenge - Regional Pathways for Climate Resilience, 'Regional Consultation for National Adaptation Plan: Mobilizing Adaptation Finance to Build Resilience', World Bank-Government of India- Government of Kerala, May 22, 2025, Hyatt Regency, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- Panelist, HCLTech Grant Symposium in Bangalore on "From Wells to Wetlands: Rural Innovations and Technological Solutions for Water and Biodiversity " , 20th June 2025. AV Rama Rao Auditorium, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore

Professor Ioannis Poullos:

- Poullos, I., Zavvou, E., Choremi, I.-L., Themis, A., Gazi, A., Makris, A., Strategies for museums with significant epigraphic collections: the Epigraphic Museum of Greece (EM), World Archaeological Congress 10, Darwin, Australia, June 2025
- Ionnis Poullos, I. 2025, "Book review of The Bloomsbury Handbook of Religion and Heritage in Contemporary Europe", 2025 Spring Special Issue: Religious Heritage - sites, people, challenges, CIDADES Comunidades e Territorios. Ελεύθερη πρόσβαση: <https://revistas.rcaap.pt/cct/issue/view/2038>

Journal of Heritage Management: Centre's Flagship Publication

The Journal of Heritage Management is a peer-reviewed biannual (June and December) International Journal of the Ahmedabad University.

In collaboration with the Sage Publications, the journal publishes high-quality research papers, commentaries and book reviews on themes of heritage management.

[Visit the Sage Publications website to submit your paper online.](#)

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Ashoke Chatterjee, Editor

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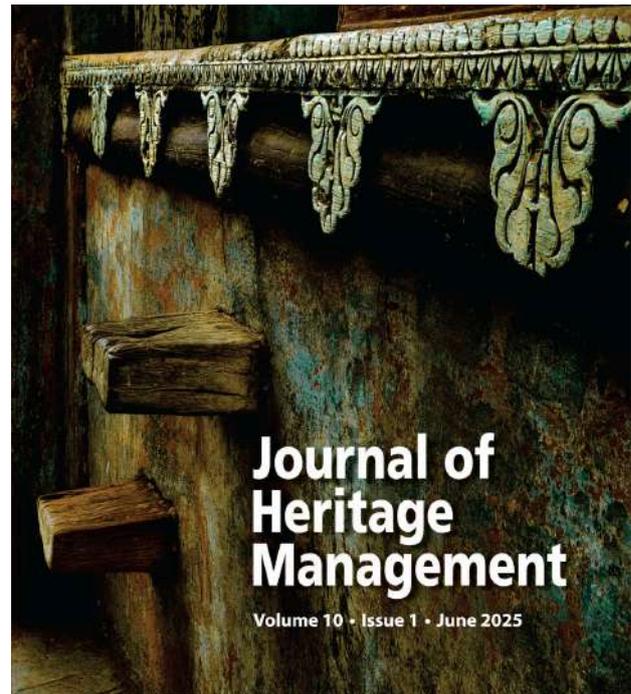
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