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From the Desk of Chief Editor

The tangible and intangible heritage acts as a tool to portray the intellectual wealth/wisdom of different societies or communities existed in the past of a Country. Reverence for the ethnicity and authenticity has always been there, in respect of any Country, from the very early period, and is certainly not a new finding. The history of the restoration of the Great Stupa of Sanchi of Mauryan Empire (India) is one of the great accomplishments, using heritage as a device.

The INTACH charter of India stresses upon the contribution of all periods of history; which is in coherence with the International strategies. Indian Heritage has always been a mirror to world influences as well as its indigenous practices. The microcosm of the world's knowledge, with the continuous cultural synthesis and integration has occurred since antiquity in India. The preservation of the heritage precincts as well carrying forward the valuable lessons of the past into the future carries utmost importance. Medieval India introduced new faith and the bond between man, culture, and nature. Construction of temples complexes, Shrines and Ghats, increased in number and the popularity of teerthayatra, increased in scale during medieval times.

In conservation circles, the built heritage centric issues of heritage areas are more clearly understood, recognized and addressed than the issues relating to cultural landscape and natural heritage sites. The latter typologies rarely get the type of attention they deserve. The intricate link between natural heritage and cultural landscapes is another potential area of serious research, especially in context of our country. Cultural landscape may seem intangible and less understood but is important components of social historical and ecological realm of a region. Such landscapes are generally democratic in nature and exist in the public domain. They are strong indicators of interdependent relationship of humans with nature and are therefore tested models of sustainability. The holistic management of these areas becomes vitally important.

Hence supporting and conserving the heritage, local traditions, culture and customs is the distinct sustainable way for preserving the human existence on this planet. Keeping this thought in the mind, the first issue of SPAV-International Journal of Planning and Architectural Science (SPAV-IJPAS) has been based upon the various related topics of the theme on 'Heritage Conservation and Built Environment'

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