From IHCNF Desk in Bangalore

We wish to thank our readers for the continuing support to IHCNF's monthly newsletter which helps us keep you informed about our organizations activities on a regular basis.

Mission to Nagpur: The IHCNF team headed by Executive Director IHCNF visited Nagpur on 20th June 2017 for a meeting with Shri Sachin Kurve (IAS), Collector, Nagpur District. The meeting was attended by officials from the State Department of Archaeology and ASI Nagpur Circle. Deliberations were held on a proposal by the State Government for the conservation of monuments and development of heritage sites in the temple town of Ramtek. IHCNF technical team visited some of these sites prior to the meeting and gave necessary feedback on potential projects for implementation.

Bhoomi Pooja for HRIDAY: An inaugural function was conducted by Town Municipal Council Badami for the Project: Underground Drainage for Tattakote village on 4th June 2017 . The work order for the project was given to the Contactor Mr. G Krishna Mohan, Vidyagiri, Bagalkot on 18th April 2017. The Member of Parliament Shri P C Gaddigaudar, Member of Legislative Assembly Shri B B Chimmanakatti, and

President of Town Municipal Council Shri F A Doddamani, Vice President Smt V S Patil other council members attended the function.

Review Meeting on HRIDAY: A meeting was held on 22nd May with Hon. Shri Roshan Beg, Minister Urban Development Department, GOK and Shri Mahender Jain, Additional Chief Secretary, Urban Development Department, GOK at Town Municipal Council Badami. Project officer (Badami)- IHCNF attended the meeting.

On the 19th of June, IHCNF ED and Director (Projects) met up with the Tourism Minister, Government of Karnataka, Shri M.B. Patil regarding the Bijapur Karez Project. IHCNF has been assigned to prepare DPR and immediately commence work with regards to desilting and vegetation clearance of the Karez.

On 15th June, Deccan Heritage Foundation (India) and IHCNF met with Srinivas Murthy, the Manager Corporate Affairs at Nestle to discuss the Zero Waste Management Project at Bidar, which is being funded by Nestle's CSR fund.

The international conference on Karez on Cultural Borders, being jointly organized by IHCNF and UNESCO New Delhi has confirmed close 20 confirmed speakers, of which 12 are international experts. The conference is scheduled for the 29- 31st of October in Bidar

Feature Article	Pg 2

Continuing with our theme of featuring one heritage towns and villages as designated by the Government of Karnataka in 2012-13, this month we feature the ancient city of Aihole.
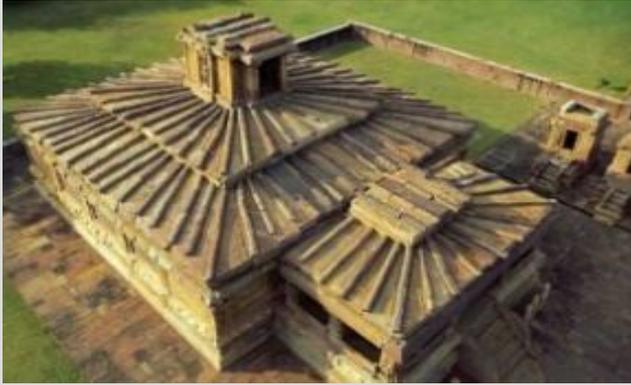
Announcement

IHCN-F is currently inviting applications for a full-time position of conservation architects with 5 or more years of experience, for various upcoming projects in Karnataka.

Last Date to apply: 14th July, 2017

Date of Interview: 17th July, 2017

Interested candidates to email their C.V. and sample work to info@ihcn.in

Heritage Village: Aihole

In 2012-13, the Government of Karnataka declared 20 new towns and villages as Heritage areas in the State of Karnataka. Last month we focused on the heritage village of Malkhed. Continuing with the aim to create awareness about Karnataka's rich heritage, this month we bring to you the heritage village of Aihole, an ancient site popular desiginated as the 'Cradle of Hindu Rock Architecture'.

Situated on the bank of river Malaprabha River in the Bagalkot district, Aihole is dates is one of the oldest city in Karnataka, dating back to the 5th century.

Pattadakal a nearby town in Bagalkot is inscribed as the UNESCO WHS, and currently the group of monuments at Aihole along with Badami are on the UNESCO tentative site to represent the 'Evolution of Temple Architecture – Aihole-Badami- Pattadakal'.

Mythological Reference

As per legends, Saint Parusharama after fulfilling his vow of avenging his father's murder come down to the Malaprabha River to   wash his blood stained hands and the axe turning the river water red due to the blood on the axe. A local lady saw the red water and shouted *Ayyo, Hole!* (Oh No, Blood!) and hence the name Aihole.

History and Excavations

The ancient city of Aihole was originally called Arya-Hole, Aryapura or Arya-vole (City of Aryans). Established on the ruins of the Gupta Empire in 450 A.D. by the Badami-Chalukyas, it was the first capital city of the Early Chalukyas, which later moved to the nearby town of Badami.

With over 125 temples, Aihole is popularly referred as the 'Cradle of Hindu Rock Architecture'. The temples in Aihole represent the beginning of all the main features of Hindu temple architecture-*sikharas* (a four-sided superstructure or tower formed using many decorative layers of stonework), the *nasika* or *sukanas*(projecting facade medallions), a *gavaksa* (double-curved arch), and an *amalaka* (a large ribbed circular stone on top of the *sikhara*). This temple architectural style is most popular in the southern and north- eastern parts of India. The temple building in Aihole took place in two phases- first phase dating back

to the 5-6th century and the second in the 12th century.

While most temples in Aihole are Hindu, there are also early Buddhist and Jain caves and monuments.. Apart from this, many prehistoric sites have been excavated in Morera Angadigalu, near the Meguti hillock.

Many inscriptions here have been unearthed at Aihole, of which one inscription called the 'Aihole inscription' is of prime importance. Written in Sanskrit in old Kannada script, the inscription records the political and military events of the Chalukyas. These records have also helped the historians date the famous war of Mahabharata.

There are many temples scattered all over the village which have been divided into 22 groups.

Some of the popular temples are-

Durga Temple: Dating back to the late 7th-early 8th century, this fortress temple is dedicated to Vishnu and built along the lines of a Buddhist chaitya. The temple is adorned with beautiful carving and is a rare example of apsidal plan

Ladh Khan Temple: Named after a Chalikyan General, this temple consists of two mantapas and is dedicated to Shiva.

Ravana Phadi cave: one of the oldest rock cut temple in Aihole this 6th century shrine has a fine figure of Nataraja among the numerous images of other deities.

Other prominent Hindu temples include-Huchimalli (gudi) temple, Gowda Temple, Surayanarayana Temple, Konti Group of Temples, Jyotirlinga complex.

Meguti Temple,is the only dated temple in Aihole and it dedicated to Mahavir, the 24th tirthankara. Aihole inscription dates this Jain temple back to 634 A.D. Perched on the same hill as the Meguti temple, is a 6th century partly rock cut, two storied Buddhist cave temple.

Also found on the Meguti hills are couple of prehistoric sites

Present Situation

The heritage village of Aihole was reviewed in 2016 by IHCNF. The core settlement of the village still largely boasts of vernacular houses, compactly built together primarily constructed of out of bricks, stones and timber.

The entrance doors are heavily decorated adding to the unique feature to this vernacular style of architecture.

Unfortunately, the village lacks basic infrastructure such as toilet facilities, lack of sewage treatment or drainage lines, clean drinking water facilities among many other issues. While ASI protected monuments are well maintained the village in general has been left neglected.