

International Day for Monuments and Sites

18April 2020

Jammu, J&K, India

Theme: Shared Cultures, Shared Heritage, Shared Responsibility

A Report

Like previous years, Heritage experts and enthusiasts from Jammu and Kashmir continued with the tradition of celebrating International Day for Monuments and Sites. In the view of Corona Pandemic& lockdowns, the activities related to event remained confined to online interaction and sharing of thoughts. Under the aegis of ICICH, it's members from India collaborated with **Sanrakshan Heritage Consultants Pvt. Ltd.** and **Virasat** along with **The Dispatch** as media partner to produce a short documentary video with compilation of views of several heritage experts and enthusiasts from Jammu and Kashmir, India on this year's theme and in general. The Video was well circulated on the social media and YouTube channels throughout the week to generate awareness and conscious among young generation and masses. It was also well received by several high ranking government officials. The resource persons focused on the diverse aspects of heritage of the region of Jammu and Kashmir and the future course which is required to be taken. The documentary started with the introduction to the whole idea of this initiative by Mr. Munish Pandit(Vice President, ICICH-ICOMOS) followed by message from LEE-NIINIOJA, Hee Sook, President ICICH-ICOMOS. Ms. Hee Sook stressed on the need of understanding and importance of shared heritage in regional context.

We are grateful that eminent personalities from the region and recipient of PadamShree Award (A Prestigious National Award presented by President of India), Shri Shiv Nirmohi and Shri Rajender Tiku readily agreed to contribute in this awareness campaign and shared their thoughts and messages for young generation. Shri Shiv Nirmohi is a social writer and has authored several books and publications while Shri Rajender Tiku is a world renowned Sculptor.

Renowned professionals and people from the field of heritage conservation from the region came forward and joined this endeavor. Mr. Saleem Beg(expert on Kashmir Art and Architecture, Former Director General, Tourism, J&K Govt.) Mr. S.M. Sahni (Former Director General, Tourism, J&K Govt.), Mr. Khursheed Qadri (Former Director General Archives, Archaeology & Museums, J&K), Mr. Parvez Dewan(former Secretary Tourism, Govt. India and author of several books on Heritage), Mr. Ajay Khajuria (Former Director Tourism Jammu, Founding Member-Secretary (ex-officio)/Executive Director, Mubarak Mandi Jammu Heritage Society), Mr. Arvind Kotwal (Managing Director, J&K Housing Board), Mr. Nagendra Singh Jamwal (Additional District Commissioner, Udhampur), Dr. Poonam Choudhary (Director, Centre for Studies in Museology, University of Jammu), Dr. Mrinalini Atrey(The Law School, University of Jammu), Mr. Javaid Rahi(Secretary, Tribal Research and Cultural Foundation, Expert on heritage of Gujjar-Bakerwal tribes), Dr. Arvinder Singh(Additional Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages), Mr. Kirpal Singh(Conservation Assistant, Dogra Art Museum), Ms. Sukanya Sharma and Ms. Hemani Badyal (Conservation Architect).

We are happy to inform you that several NGOs and individual heritage enthusiasts volunteered and came forward and contributed to this documentary. We are very glad to know their views and aspirations on the local resources and the way & medium they use to propagate heritage awareness campaign. Mr. Vaibhav Sharma (Founder, Travelers Dost), Mr. Sugam Bral (Founder-Chairman, Jammu Diary), Mr. Ajay Khajuria (Founder, Heritage & Me), Mr. Vikas Sodi (Founder, Jammu encyclopaedia) are a few who's messages we could include in the documentary. We also extend our thanks to Ms. Harry Walia, for providing us with technical support in the production of this documentary. We are also grateful to Mr. Rahul Bholra to provide us with last minute edits in the documentary and made us possible to broadcast it in time. Finally we pay our gratitude to ICICH-ICOMOS for extending their support and encouragement to conduct this activity.