

World Monuments Fund India Association

Annual Report 2022-2023



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World Monuments Fund India Association – An Introduction

World Monuments Fund India Association (WMFI) was established in India in 2015, with a mission to promote, support, encourage, conserve, and preserve our country's rich heritage and address contemporary needs such as skill building, local community strengthening, and environmental concerns around our projects. Our wish is that the present and future generations will access and enjoy the richness of India's artistic, cultural, and historical heritage.

WMFI has worked on a variety of projects - ranging from palaces to educational institutions across the geography of the country, e.g., the Afghan War Memorial Church - Mumbai (Ongoing Project), the Mughal Gardens - Agra, Lal Bagh Palace - Indore, Interpretation Centre at It'mad-ud-Daullah - Agra, Ahileshwar Temple - Maheshwar, the Keneseth Eliyadoo Synagogue - Mumbai, the Residency Building at Osmania University - Hyderabad, the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Stadium, and the Dwarkadhish Temple – Ahmedabad.

Our work has brought together multiple stake-holders working closely with governments, e.g., the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), the Madhya Pradesh Govt., Govt of Telangana etc.; partnerships with donors such as TCS Foundation, Citibank, InterGlobe Aviation Limited (IndiGo), and American Express India Pvt. Ltd, custodians of monuments as well as local communities around our sites. We believe in working sensitively and inclusively and have built a strong record of delivering projects of quality within defined timelines.



For us, conservation is about creating relevance in our contemporary lives more than preserving old structures. The recent projects we have signed up for include a multi-year initiative to document and conserve India's ancient water management systems and speaking about current concerns around environment and sustainability such as the Rajao ki Baoli in New Delhi and the Taj Bawdi in Bijapur, Karnataka.

The other project includes preparation of a preliminary documentation report of the Old Herbarium, Kolkata, that will act as a road map for the comprehensive conservation plan commissioned towards the conservation of this building.

WMFI also focuses on building capacity i.e, training young conservators at each one of our projects on old techniques, new technologies, etc. In addition, we add to public discourse and knowledge on the buildings we work at and conservation in general through public talks, etc. This year, we aim to move beyond our focus on technical work to expanding the community of people engaged with issues pertaining to heritage management/conservation. To that end, we have launched the International Council (IC) - a community of visionary leaders from all domains business, academia, etc interested in heritage conservation and who can support in helping WMF achieve its goals.

This report outlines our projects and activities in the past year. We hope it encourages you to be more involved in our work - to visit our projects, attend our talks and partner/ support heritage conservation in your own way.



Papier mâché ceiling Durbar Hall, Osmania University, Hyderabad



Ahilyeshwar Mandir and Vithojirao Chhatri Complex, Maheshwar

Foreword

Dear Friends,

We've all heard the saying that 'change is the only constant in life', and one might even add the corollary that the success of an organisation can be measured in the way it responds to that change.

World Monuments Fund has been active in India for the last twenty-five years with an excellent track record of working with both private and government agencies on heritage conservation projects. It believes in delivering sensitively restored structures which are closely linked to contemporary community needs, engaging all stakeholders and custodians, and seeking a balance between them.

The past year has been a seminal one for us. Emerging from the pandemic, we handed over the Lal Bagh Palace, Indore after completion of key historic interiors. We also completed and handed over the Residency Building to the Osmania University in Hyderabad. The work at the Afghan War Memorial Church is in full swing. Additionally, we began a major initiative to locate and assess the potential for reviving historic water systems throughout the country. This conservation of historic water bodies project in partnership with TCS Foundation aims to restore water bodies of both architectural and cultural value. This is critical to ecology/sustainability as this project will address the impacts of urbanisation and climate change on access to clean drinking water.

The coming year, we begin preliminary work on the Old Herbarium at the ACJB Botanical Gardens, Kolkata and explore expanding into South India.

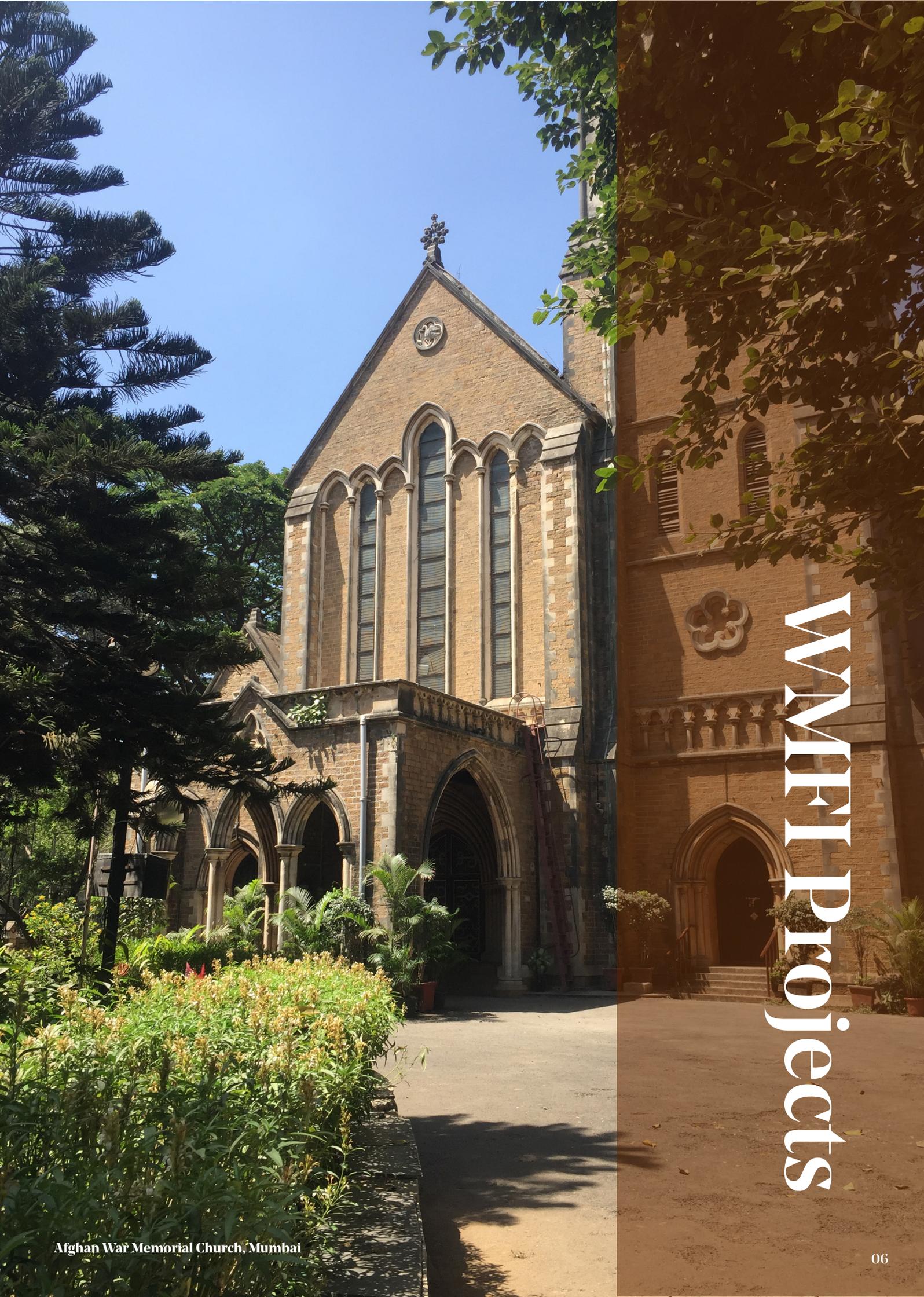
I am excited at the possibilities of what the next five years will bring as we grow the geographic footprint of our projects, increase our capacity building efforts and build the community of people safeguarding heritage.

Today, more than ever, there is an increased need to support and endorse the preservation of our heritage as climate change, rapid unplanned urbanisation and other forces erode the fabric of our historic cities and sites. I hope this report gives you a flavour of WMFI work and that I can invite you to participate in this cause, in your own way.

HH Maharaja Gaj Singh
Chairperson
WMF India Association

WMFI Projects





WMMFI Projects

Afghan War Memorial Church, Mumbai

The Afghan War Memorial Church is a major contribution to the rich landscape of Mumbai's cultural heritage with support from Citibank, WMFI has partnered with the Church of North India (CNI) and the Indian Navy to conserve this monument which serves the congregation, a local community as well as a much larger constituency of stakeholders who continue to use the church for secular and cultural purposes throughout the year (e.g. music concerts).

Built in the mid-1800s, the church commemorates different regiments including the Bombay Army, the Madras Army, Ranjit Singh's army from Lahore, and several other regiments from different parts of India that participated in the Afghan wars. This restoration effort was initiated to protect this historic monument and to ensure it continues to function as a multicultural community hub in the city.

Details of the conservation work

This 3 year project began in February 2022 and included the first time ever repair of the entire roof of the church. The repair work of the roof was extensive as the original structure was being repaired and water damage to the timber was more extensive than what was presumed. The challenge was that the roof couldn't be removed completely and work had to be completed before the onset of monsoons. This restoration was a technical feat as it was done entirely in situ.

The current work is focused on the conservation of the built fabric, both the external structure as well as the internal elements of the church such as the spire, stained-glass windows & panels, stone plaques, the mosaic wall, baptismal font, metal work, wooden furniture, the Memorial Cross, and other artefacts. Of particular interest are the original pennants and the flags from the British Afghan war (18-19th century). The flags were found in a very delicate condition. As we begin work on these, interesting questions arise on the appropriate principles of conservation to be applied to such critical artefacts - pertaining to the handling, display and storage of the flags. The flags once restored, will bring back that ensured sense of history which differentiates it from being just another Church.

An additional contribution of WMFI's effort towards this project is to honour the Indians who fought in the Anglo-Afghan wars. Currently, the team through research is looking for information on these soldiers and collating their names which will be proudly remembered after being placed on a plaque that will be added in the church premises. In addition to this, WMFI will be setting up an interpretation centre that will explain the historical significance of the monument, this centre will include the history of the church, its relevance to the city and to the country as well. This will enhance the experience of visitors.

WMFI has been working sensitively with the Pastorate committee, the Navy, and the BMC to ensure a smooth progress of the project in a timely manner. A section of the church has also been kept open for the parishioners to have their weekly Sunday service even during the ongoing restoration process.

Another interesting component is the church bell-tower, which is acknowledged to be the best in western India. It includes eight large bells designed to chime with an Ellacombe stand. The structure supporting the bells had deteriorated over time. Structural changes to the original mechanism for the bell support were made to manage for this since it adversely affected the sound of the bells. The aim of the current proposed restoration is to get closer to the original design intent and to cater to the sound of the bells.

Cleaning and maintenance of the entire building is being done as a result of salt and grime accumulation, vegetation growth, etc. The dampness along with water leakage through exposed stone piers attached to the walls from the soil, has led to deterioration of the stone walls. Hence, a surface water management system is being created to properly channel the water collected on the surface, this in turn will help recharge the ground as well. The grounds once restored will serve as a green lung for the area as well as a carbon sink.





We have been engaging with experts from around the world who are best in class to help with conservation decision making on our sites. e.g., experts from the York Glaziers Trust were invited to visit the site to review the ongoing stone and glass conservation work; there is ongoing communication with Alfred Fisher, a stained glass expert to help with the stained glass conservation; Arun Menon, a professor of structural engineering from IIT Madras was invited to help with structural conservation of the building.

Capacity building is a big focus in all our projects. A lot of capacity building workshops have been held at the site for architecture students. The workshops are aimed at exposing the students to the various materials they would encounter in a historic building and the challenges faced during conservation.

Talks with civic and cultural bodies are underway to seed interest in the adaptive re-use of the building. In the past, the church was used for secular and cultural events but as the state of the building deteriorated, much of it stopped due to various risk factors. With restoration, the church can resume activities such as public concerts, art shows, etc. The church grounds can be used for community outreach programmes such as holding medical/ health camps for the neighbourhood schools, the local community, etc.

The investment of the local community in the church can help it become one of the key tourist sites for the visitors to the city of Mumbai.

“

The restoration process, slowly unfolding its complexities, has been challenging for us as professionals. The collaborative association with WMF India & Citibank has induced a sense of discipline while negotiating the multi-faceted conservation aspects along with cross-disciplinary teams of experts. An integrated conservation process is envisaged to enable a future that is tenable for continued community participation in the enhanced environment of the restored monument.

- Kirtida Unwalla, Lead Conservation Architect, Afghan Church





Historic Water Systems of India

Conservation, Restoration, Revival, Adaptation, and Interpretation of

Historically, Indians had a very instinctive sense of preservation of its water resources and now, where is this more visible than in the myriad water structures which are built around the country serving both civil society as well as their rulers of the time.

In the twentieth century, the advent of piped water changed our traditional knowledge systems forever, often destroying them in favour of the ease of water on tap in every home. Throughout India, settlements depended on safe drinking water without which it could not survive and therefore, the harnessing of this resource was a primary concern. Through the passage of time, baolis not only became the main source of drinking water but also a cool sanctuary for prayers, meditation, bathing, and other such multiple forms of relaxations and recreations.



Water Heritage

© Ajaydeep Singh Jamwal, World Monuments Fund India Association

Rajao Ki Baoli, Mehrauli, New Delhi

The recent partnership signed between TCS Foundation and World Monuments Fund India is also a response to the Government of India's clarion call to safeguard our traditional water systems and the knowledge of water conservation imbued within.

The objective of this project is to rejuvenate the ancient water bodies. With afforestation and creating a suitable microclimate, we hope to draw fauna that once populated the banks of these water bodies. The project is in its 2nd phase now. The first phase included secondary research and collation of information on the Historic Water Systems of India and its typologies. The second phase of the project engages with the conservation and restoration aspect of the various stepwells/ tanks in India.





Rajao Ki Baoli, *Mehrauli, New Delhi*

Located within the Mehrauli Archaeological Park, this step-well was built during the Lodi period. The water in the baoli was meant for cooking and drinking purposes. It is a four-level rectangular tank with steps at one end and a circular well at the other. It has long, covered corridors or dalans along the sides of the tank with arches beautifully decorated with incised limestone plaster; it has carved brackets that support the chhajja below the parapet. There are rooms behind this arcade which would no doubt have given shade and shelter to visitors to the step-well. An inscription on the tomb tells us that it was built by Daulat Khan during the reign of Sikander Lodi in 1506 over the remains of a Khwaja Mohammad. The tomb is in the form of a chhatra or pillared kiosk. The baoli was probably built at the same time as these buildings, i.e, in 1506.

Today, the baoli is in urgent need of conservation - the built fabric needs to be safeguarded. The water in the baoli needs to be cleaned and kept algae-free, and the water aquifer must be recharged so that the baoli gets water throughout the year.

This first project is being executed in partnership with the TCS Foundation and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). It will undertake scientific research,

comprehensive conservation, protection, interpretation, and conservation of the site. One of the objectives of this project includes developing protocols for Water Management of Historic Water Systems so that they will serve future generations. Optimal and efficient use of the water will also be identified to keep the water from stagnating. Once restored, it will serve as a model project for both building conservation and conservation of the Historic Water Bodies



Taj Bawdi, *Bijapur*

Another pipeline project under this collaboration is the Taj Bawdi Project. The Taj Bawdi is a large ancient water tank located in Bijapur in the southern state of Karnataka, India, built by Ibrahim Adil Shah II in honour of his wife, Queen Taj Sultana, in the year 1620. Taj Bawdi is a cut out tank to hold the spring water which lies directly below. The Bawdi complex consisted of a square water tank, a hammam for bath, and resting places for the people.

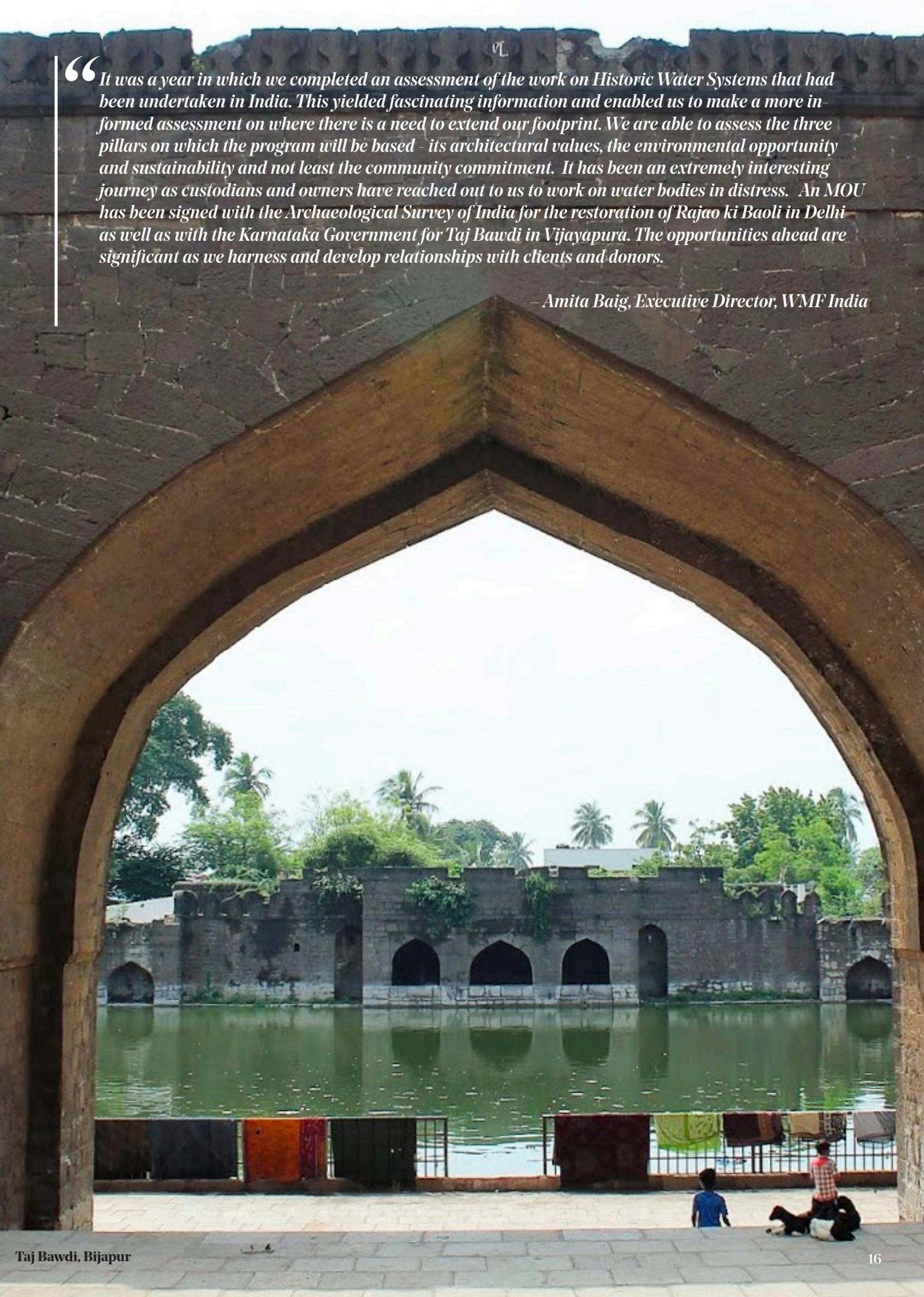
The project addresses the management of the open area around it to ensure the ground water is not over extracted. This is vital as many other tanks of Bijapur have dried up.

Originally built as a source of water for the city as well as used for recreational activities, the Taj Bawdi is currently in a state of neglect. The project objectives will include:

- » Augmenting water supply for the local community.
- » Improved water table in the precinct.
- » Model project for conservation and Revival of Traditional Water Systems leading to more such initiatives.
- » Ecological and environmental impact leading to an improvement of the microclimate.
- » Conservation of a heritage asset which can provide opportunities for tourism related livelihoods generation.

“It was a year in which we completed an assessment of the work on Historic Water Systems that had been undertaken in India. This yielded fascinating information and enabled us to make a more informed assessment on where there is a need to extend our footprint. We are able to assess the three pillars on which the program will be based - its architectural values, the environmental opportunity and sustainability and not least the community commitment. It has been an extremely interesting journey as custodians and owners have reached out to us to work on water bodies in distress. An MOU has been signed with the Archaeological Survey of India for the restoration of Rajao ki Baoli in Delhi as well as with the Karnataka Government for Taj Bawdi in Vijayapura. The opportunities ahead are significant as we harness and develop relationships with clients and donors.

– Amita Baig, Executive Director, WMF India





Old Herbarium at the A.J.C Bose Indian Botanic Garden- *Kolkata.*

The Old Herbarium, dating back to 1883, is located within the AJC Bose Indian Botanic Garden in Kolkata. The purpose of this building was to contain the garden's ever-expanding collection of plant specimens. Aesthetically, the building is a fine example of Victorian colonial public architecture. It is a single block rectangular structure, with an internal double-height atrium, and a gallery all around the building, at the first-floor level. Currently, it is in an advanced state of neglect but yet has most of its original elements. The Herbarium restoration could in the long term become the repository of the Roxburgh paintings which are an important record of plant species of the time.

This proposed project will entail preparation of a preliminary documentation report that will inform the future course of action and act as a road map for the comprehensive conservation plan that will be commissioned towards the conservation of this building. There will also be visual recording of the present condition of the building as well as an evaluation of the necessary work.

The restoration of the building envisages carrying out repair works in a manner sympathetic to the materials and design of the original structure, and the plan for reuse proposes utilising the building and its immediate vicinity to create an interpretation gallery, a visitor centre with restrooms, café, and other facilities.

This project is part of a larger project, the Roxburgh International Hub Project, which aims to act as a catalyst in rejuvenating the AJC Bose Indian Botanic Garden.



Osmania University College for Women *(former British Residency), Hyderabad*



The Residency Building

Completion of a major conservation project at the Osmania University College for Women, Koti, Hyderabad.

Osmania Women's College, was originally built as an official British Residency in the early 19th century, it was finally handed over by WMF to the university in 2022 after completion of its restoration over two decades. WMF's long-standing conservation efforts of the past 20 years has helped the university bring back the building to a state that made it possible for the college to continue its educational mandate in such an extraordinary setting. This building today educates more than 2,500 pupils.

The Darbar Hall which is a part of the British Residency, over the last few years was used as the main building of the Koti Women's College. Years of neglect, poor maintenance, and disrepair made the building inoperable.

This building represented one of the earliest examples of the classical revival style in India and in 2010, WMF highlighted the need to conserve and restore this historic building. It was a project which took a decade to complete as large sections had collapsed and needed to be repaired and rebuilt.

The conservation involved emergency repairs to the Durbar Hall Building, structural consolidation of Darbar Hall Block, removal of modern accretions and restoration of the authentic facade of the building's western balcony, reconstruction of Madras terrace roof, and waterproofing of the building using traditional methods. One of the toughest tasks was the restoration of one of the most magnificent papier mâché ceilings.

An interpretation centre has also been established on the first floor to disseminate information about the history and culture of the former British Residency through the ages to its contemporary life in the university.

In April 2022, the restoration of the Durbar Hall was completed. The building was formally handed over to the University in the presence of Mr. V. Srinivas Goud, Minister for Tourism & Culture and Archaeology of Telangana state, Prohibition & Excise, Sports & Youth services. At this time an MOU was signed with the University for the long-term management and maintenance of the historic building and a separate MOU was signed with them for the restoration of the

three historic gateways and the central garden. In January 2023, a celebration for the handover of the building was arranged. This event was attended by people from all across the world. As part of this celebration, there was a release of a publication on the Residency Building authored by Ms. Anuradha Naik followed by an illustrative talk by Mr. William Dalrymple, that gave a beautiful insight into the life of the architect of the building.

Twenty years ago WMF began its efforts on the ground, restoring the building piece by piece. The partnership still continues through the conservation of other elements at the university campus.

The conservation of the Former British Residency, Osmania University College for Women by World Monuments Fund has been made possible through a partnership with Osmania University College of Women, Hyderabad, and the Department of Heritage, Government of Telangana, with the generous support of The Robert W. Wilson Charitable Trust, Mr. Richard Broyd, American Express (India) Private Limited, Dr. Tejaswini Yarlagadda, and the Pleach India Foundation.



The team involved in the conservation-restoration of the Durbar Hall



© Bharath Ramamrutham, Osmania University College for Women. 2023



Darbar Hall Entrance - Before and After treatment



Interpretation Centre - Before



Interpretation Centre - After

Lal Bagh Palace, Indore

An Iconic Palace of Nineteenth-century India

Indore being an important commercial city, offers you a glimpse into the city's rich past. The initiative of conserving the rich historic interiors of the classic 19th century Lal Bagh Palace was undertaken to add a robust historic fabric into the urban setting of the city of Indore. It was envisioned to be a prototype for restoring the historic interiors of the Lalbagh Palace as a historic house museum, a concept which is rare in India.

After the successful completion of the project, the palace was handed over to the Madhya Pradesh Govt. in July 2022 along with a management and sustainability plan for the better upkeep of the palace.

The Italian Renaissance style palace was handed over by the erstwhile royal family of Indore to the Government of Madhya Pradesh in the late 1980's and is one of the most important intact palaces still extant in India. Unfortunately, the palace had remained vacant for many years and over time suffered damage due to high temperatures, heavy dust deposition, water seepage, and roof leaks.

World Monuments Fund has worked on a partnership with the Madhya Pradesh Government for over a decade. In 2019, IndiGo signed an agreement with WMF under a dynamic programme of the Madhya Pradesh Government (The Madhya Pradesh Monuments Project) and this led to undertaking detailed surveys of the historic interiors of Lal Bagh Palace to develop a conservation plan. The project was aimed at carrying out restoration work on the interiors in conjunction with the civil restoration of the Palace.

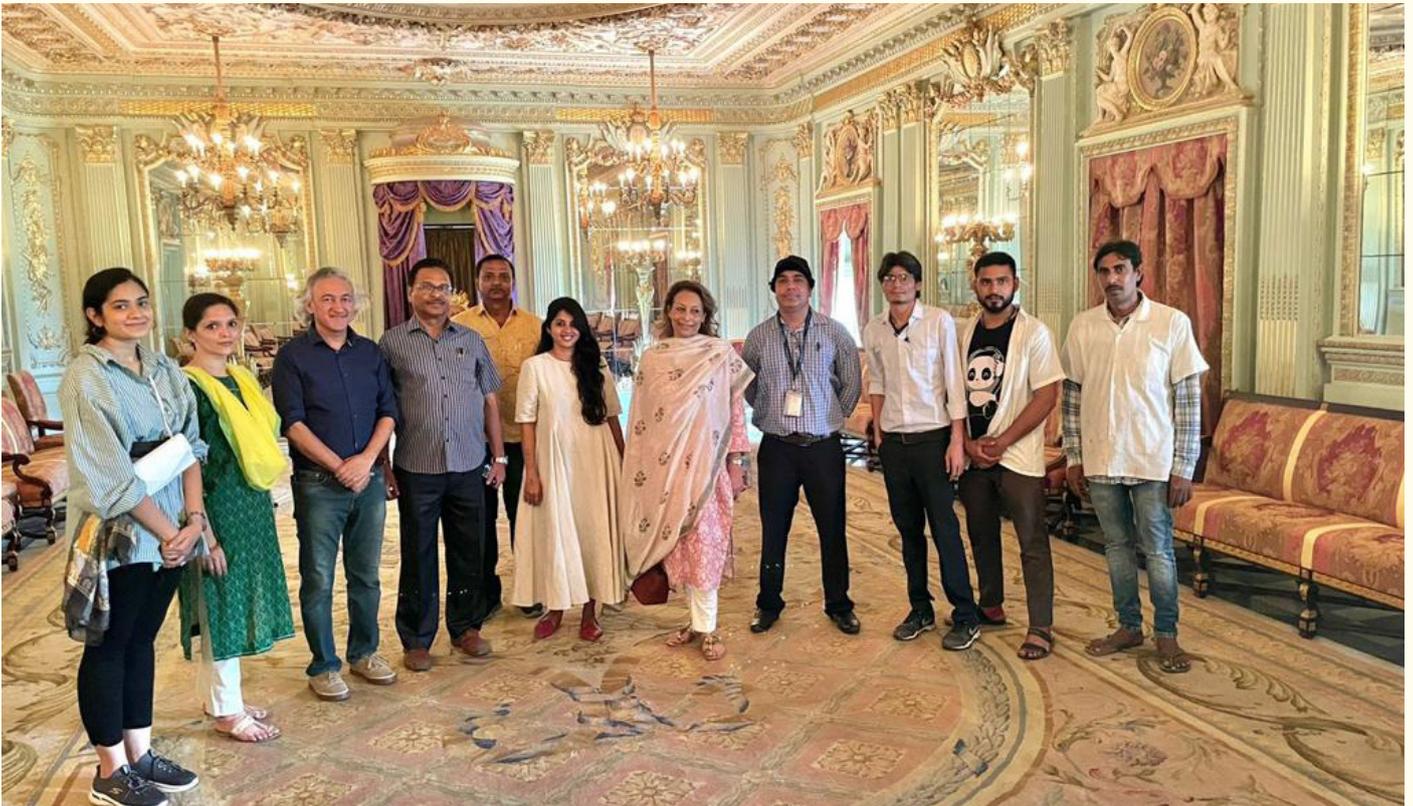
The Five rooms historic rooms - Sitting Room, Western Dining Room, Council Room, His Highness's office and the awe-inspiring Crown Hall, were restored by the conservation team. The work included stabilisation of the palace's structural elements, the restoration and repair of the ornate decorative elements as well as the intricate frescoes and murals. In addition, the project also focused on improving the palace's infrastructure, such as its electrical and plumbing systems, to ensure its long-term sustainability.



However, while the work was underway, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the slow down of the funding for the project and we were only able to complete the 5 historic rooms in their entirety. Only when the government authorities allowed movement of persons, the team members and workers resumed their duties at the site once again. The work had been significantly impacted by the extended lock down in India. The work was successfully completed in 2022 and the palace was handed over to the authorities.

The conservation of the palace has been made possible through a partnership with InterGlobe Aviation Limited (IndiGo) and the Government of Madhya Pradesh under the Madhya Pradesh Monuments Project that is intended to serve as a model of sustainable management for conservation projects in India and around the world.

The initiative was aimed at preserving the palace including the grounds, while making it safe and accessible for visitors. WMFI hopes to continue the work with this vision and find donor partnerships to support this effort.



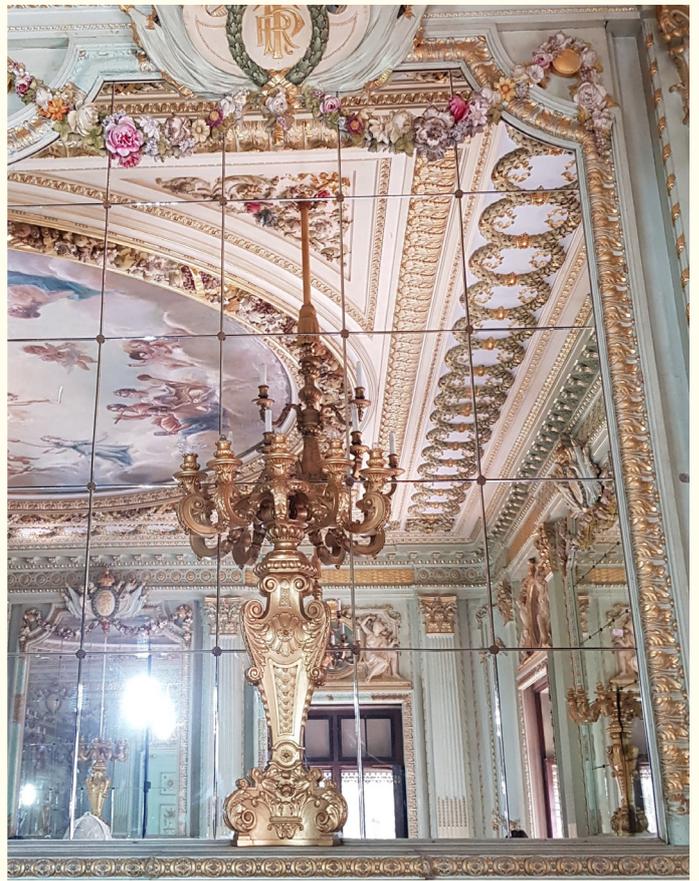
The team involved in the conservation-restoration of the Lal Bagh Palace

“*The Lalbagh Palace Project flamboyantly announces the field of historic interiors conservation coming into its own in India - bringing architects, art conservators and other highly skilled practitioners together.*

- Anupam Sah, Head of Art Conservation-Restoration Team, Lalbagh Project



Before restoration - Mirror Panel, Sitting Room



After restoration - Mirror Panel, Sitting Room



Before, During and After restoration - Main Chair, Crown Hall



Before restoration - Sitting Room



After restoration - Sitting Room

WMFI's Community Engagement

The key aspect of WMFI's work is to consider the aspirations of the local communities, the local craftsmen and the conservators, and building those communities. This is carried out through community participation i.e. involving the local community in the conservation of heritage sites with an aim of sustainable use of natural and cultural resources.

With reference to a site, WMF also focuses on how the larger community can engage in education, tourism, and other activities related to a heritage site. One such example is a collaboration with Augtraveler, a company that offers highly engaging visitor experience by using cutting-edge technology such as AR/VR, geolocation, multimedia, and analytics to interpret and promote Heritage Sites. Augtraveler worked with WMF and their local partners towards highlighting the intangible cultural heritage of a region. The objective being - how to improve the protection, conservation, and management of heritage sites using digital technologies.

Calendar of events

Hyderabad

Heritage From Home

A virtual tour conducted at the Osmania University to showcase the behind-the-scenes conservation work to a global audience.

Sep 16, 2022

Mumbai

A private walk through of the CSMVS Museum Art Conservation Centre.

Oct 5, 2022

Sep 21, 2022

An exclusive talk delivered on WMFI Projects by Ms. Amita Baig, Executive Director of WMFI.

Delhi

Oct 6-19

Architecture Training Program at Osmania University for Women

Hyderabad

Through its various projects, WMFI engages with the best of experts for advice and review on the ongoing conservation work. Capacity building workshops and training programmes are conducted to ensure that architecture students are equipped with or are provided the necessary information to understand the work involved in heritage conservation. This includes on-site training and interacting with experts, keeping that in mind the aim is to help create conservators/ leaders to develop and strengthen heritage conservation in the country with regards to good governance, decision making, and developing strategies for a sustainable future.

WMFI builds up on people who are interested in the preservation of cultural heritage and understand the importance of its conservation.

New Delhi

'My City My Heritage' Campaign

A campaign to explore, document, and spread the diverse heritage and cultural aspects of ten Indian cities.

Nov 16, 2022

Nov 18, 2022 &
Feb 3, 2023

Workshop on usage of material and technology for heritage conservation at Afghan Church

Mumbai

Monumental Journeys

A special India heritage tour was organised for an international audience of WMF.

Jan 14- 21, 2023

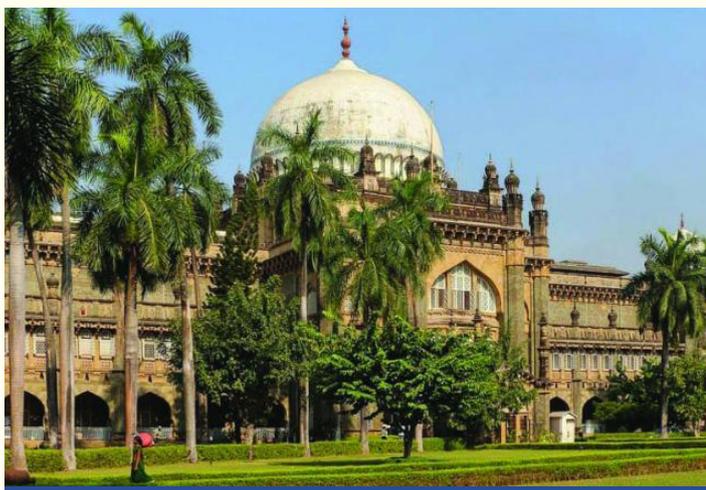
Heritage Conservation Programme at University College

Ahmedabad



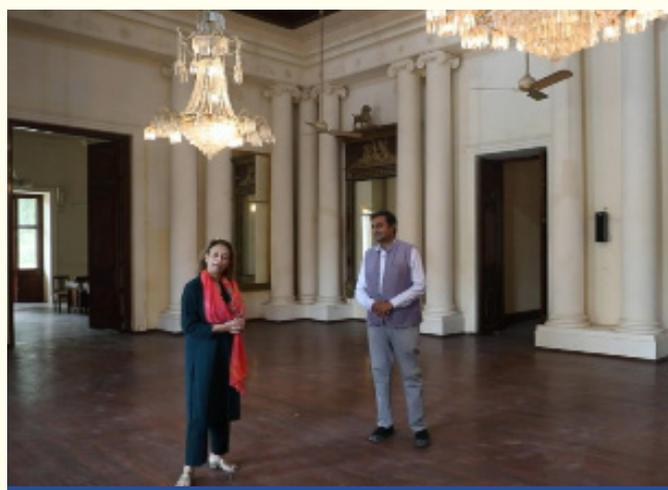
A Year Of Events

A glimpse of some of the important events undertaken as community engagement programmes.



A private walkthrough of the CSMVS Museum Art Conservation Centre, Mumbai

A special walkthrough with Anupam Sah, former head of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya Museum Art Conservation Centre and lead art conservator on the Afghan Church Project. Anupam spoke to World Monuments Fund guests about the procedure of conservation of varied materials such as wood, paper, textile, metal, and other materials.



Heritage from Home - A virtual WMFI site tour, Hyderabad

Heritage from Home is a series of virtual tours bringing you behind the scenes to some of World Monuments Fund's most iconic sites around the globe. A virtual exploratory tour of the Durbar Hall, Osmania University, Hyderabad, where WMF has been active since 2002, was conducted by Ms. Amita Baig, Executive Director, WMFI. This tour highlighted the behind-the-scenes conservation work through live interviews with conservation experts on-site, to a global audience.

A Showcase of WMFI Projects, New Delhi

An exclusive talk delivered by Amita Baig, Executive Director of WMFI, showcased the philosophy, the approach, and the various projects & initiatives of WMFI as well as the need for heritage conservation to an audience of over 30 people. This event was hosted by Priya Paul, Chairperson of Apeejay Group, and a member of the WMFI Board.



Architectural Conservation Training Programme at Osmania University College for Women, Hyderabad

This was a collaborative conservation training programme across two countries - UK and India. Six trainees from the UK and India came to Hyderabad for two weeks of learning and practical training in heritage conservation, delivered by WMF India. The students had the theoretical and practical on-site sessions focusing on the three monumental gateways and the central mall at Osmania. They engaged with heritage conservation experts to understand the material and technology, they learned to slake lime, replaster the walls, and also helped in the construction of the jack-arch roof on one of the gates. The teaching programme was supplemented with visits to heritage sites across Hyderabad to understand the material and technology of the various monuments in Hyderabad.

The aim was to equip these students with skills that they will take with them into their future careers.

This was the first overseas project that took place under the Commonwealth Heritage Skills Programme. Each of these trainees had been awarded the Hamish Ogston Foundation Commonwealth Traineeship to fund their attendance.

This collaborative traineeship was a valuable experience and had a positive impact on all who were involved.



Material & technology workshop on Heritage Conservation, Afghan Church, Mumbai

Many on-site workshops have been conducted for architecture students. The objective is to make them understand the concepts and principles of heritage conservation, the application of techniques and to get an idea about the interventions and decision-making processes involved in conserving a heritage monument. The students got an opportunity to experience the conservation work on stained glass, wood, stone, metal artefacts as well as learned how to make a lime mortar preparation.

Workshops like these help students develop a practical 'plan of action' and may inspire them to appreciate their cultural heritage and sensitise them or make them feel responsible to be the guardians of this heritage as citizens of India.



'My City My Heritage' Campaign, New Delhi

InterGlobe Foundation (IGF) and IndiGoReach, initiated the 'My City My Heritage' campaign to raise awareness about the value and importance of heritage and culture in India. Ms. Amita Baig, Executive Director, WMFI, along with eminent members from the Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India participated in a panel discussion that focussed on promoting and preserving heritage for people who live in historic districts as well as activate meaningful partnerships across sectors to strengthen tangible and intangible heritage.

Monumental Journeys:

WMF India Tour, January 2023

Hyderabad, Aurangabad, Mumbai, Jodhpur



A special India tour was organised for an international audience, many of whom were donors and IC Members of WMF. This tour had them visit many iconic sites in the country. The group was accompanied by some senior members of WMF e.g. Bénédicte de Montlaur, President and CEO of WMF; Amita Baig Executive Director of WMF India, and other experts who gave them a unique cultural experience of these sites, many of which were hosted by the WMFI board and IC members.

The tour started off with a special inauguration ceremony at Hyderabad to celebrate over two decades of work at the Durbar Hall, Osmania University. The event included the release of a publication on the Residency Building by Ms. Anuradha Naik and an illustrative presentation by Mr. William Dalrymple into the life of the architect of the building.

A talk about water management systems at Daulatabad and a guided tour of the Ajanta-Ellora caves was conducted by Dr. Yaaminey Mubai in Aurangabad.

While in Mumbai, the group visited various WMFI sites such as, the Afghan War Memorial Church, the Keneseth Eliyahoo Synagogue, and also had a private tour of the sculpture gallery at the CSMVS Museum. Their visit in Mumbai ended with an exquisite dinner that not only introduced the global audience to some of the WMFI projects but also had them interact with the various funders/ donors of our projects.

The trip ended with an exclusive dinner hosted by H.H. Maharaja Gaj Singhji, Maharaja of Jodhpur.



The International Council

WMFI this year is focussing on expanding the community that is engaged in heritage conservation by setting up the International Council (IC). The IC is a prestigious circle of visionary leaders, philanthropists, and heritage enthusiasts from around the world who care about cultural heritage. They receive unparalleled access to our conservators, staff, sites, programs, and archives, and help us chart our global strategy.

IC Members will play a key role by acting as thought partners, they will also serve as global ambassadors and will be able to participate on exclusive trips not just in India but around the world as well. These visits include access to heritage sites as well as conversations and dialogues with not just in India but around the world as well. These visits include access to heritage sites as well as conversations and dialogues with leading architects and cultural and political figures as well.

WMFI is looking forward to increasing the domain of support from people across the world who will be instrumental in helping achieve its goals.

To know more about the IC. Please contact the WMF India team.

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