

Embassy of India

Madrid

Report on AR&PA 2014 and India's Participation in it as Guest Country

The 2014 edition of the *Castilla y León* Regional Government's mega biennale on Heritage Restoration and Management titled 'AR & PA' [*Arte y Patrimonio* (Art and Heritage)], concluded successfully on November 15, 2014. Gaining in magnitude and prestige since the first edition in 1998, the event is today considered a prominent reference point in heritage management events in Europe. Over its three days from November 13 to 15, the 2014 edition saw 285 institutes and more than 18,000 visitors from across the globe participate and attend a host of events like exhibitions, discussion forums, workshops, concerts and an International 'Congress' (Conference).

2. Some major outcomes of the edition included important interactions (B2B, G2B and G2G) and signing of agreements on different topics related to Heritage Conservation, Restoration and Management; conclusions drawn in the International Congress and in various workshops and round-tables from the observations of 250 Heritage Management experts regarding actions and policies necessary in the realm of 'Society and Heritage'; across-the-board sharing of experiences on Heritage Management by 10 national governments and 285 institutes represented in the event; representation (through exhibitions, workshops and cultural concerts) of proven practices and expertise in Heritage Restoration; amongst others. Detailed report on the entire event by the Regional Government of Castilla and León can be seen at http://www.comunicacion.jcyl.es/web/jcyl/Comunicacion/es/Plantilla100Detalle/1281372057130/_/1284383019036/Comunicacion (An English translation will be sent shortly).

3. India was accorded the status of Guest Country for this year's edition. This was the first time ever that a Guest Country was featured in the event. Given the important platform that the event provided, both:

- For displaying India's faculties and expertise in the important sector of Heritage Restoration and Management

- For learning from international practices in the sector,

Mission, working in coordination with Casa de la India (an institution in Valladolid part-funded by ICCR that works for India's cultural outreach in Spain) got in touch with different leading institutions in the sector. We received an encouraging response from the institutions, as a result of which India was able to build up a comprehensive representation in different sections of AR&PA 2014 (Archaeological Survey of India was the only institution approached that expressed inability to attend due to internal constraints). Following were the contours of India's participation as Guest Country:

- An exhibition by the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) celebrating completion of 30 years of successful running of the trust.
- An exhibition by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) titled 'Tanjavur Brihadisvara: the Monument and the Living Tradition'.
- An exhibition titled 'Discovering Ahmedabad: Heritage and Urban Transformation' by Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation's Heritage Cell.

[A friendship agreement was signed between Ahmedabad and Valladolid in 2008 and considerable interaction has taken place between different institutions in both cities over the past 6 years. Ahmedabad therefore had a strong presence during AR&PA 2014.]

The Hon'ble Mayor of Ahmedabad was scheduled to be present for certain activities of the event, accompanied by the Deputy Municipal Commissioner of Ahmedabad. However, due to last minute unavoidable circumstances, they had to cancel their visit.]

- An MoU on Cooperation in Heritage Management was signed between INTACH and the Regional Government of Castilla and León.
- Mr Rajeev Sethi, Chairman of the Asian Heritage Foundation, delivered the Closing Lecture of the AR&PA 2014 International Congress. Mr Debashish Nayak, Director of Centre for Heritage Management at Ahmedabad University and Ms. Vandana Manchanda, Director Architectural Heritage Division of INTACH also gave presentations in the International Congress.
- A Round Table on "Research and Technological Innovation in Heritage Conservation: Opportunities for Spain-India

Cooperation” was held, which saw participation by Mr Debashish Nayak, Director of Centre for Heritage Management at Ahmedabad University and Mr Naveen Piplani, Principal Director INTACH Heritage Academy from the Indian side.

- An EU funded project titled ‘Cultural Heritage & Management Venture Lab in Ahmedabad’ was presented as part of AR&PA.
- Intangible heritage conservation in India was represented through a workshop and performance of ‘Kathakali’ by the Margi Group from Kerala, led by Mr Srinivasan Sivanandan, sponsored by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations is sponsoring the visit by the group.

India had a central representation to the visitors of AR&PA through an ‘India Stand’ that was erected at the main entrance of the venue (Miguel Delibes Cultural Centre). The stand was inaugurated by the President of the Regional Government of Castilla and León, Mr Juan Vicente Herrera Campo on the first day of the event. In the closing ceremony, INTACH was conferred the AR&PA Honorary Award for the institution’s dedicated work in the field of heritage conservation for more than 30 years.

4. Being the Guest Country, India and the institutions representing India were in the lead in gaining from the outcomes of the event as listed in Para 2 above. India’s participation was not only widely appreciated by the actual participants, visitors and attendees to the various events, but also found significant press coverage in the local media. A selection of the media reports is enclosed.