



India's Participation as the first ever Guest Country in 'AR&PA'

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).

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. Following were the contours of India's comprehensive participation as Guest Country in AR&PA 2014:

- 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.]

- 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.