

Project 'Mausam'**National Conference on Indian Ocean Region: Cultural Landscapes and Maritime Trade Routes of India:
'Review of existing data and Identification of Potential Coastal Sites'
with a Special Session on 'Spice Route' by Kerala Tourism**

Date: 17th – 19th November 2014

Venue: Bolgatty Palace, Kochi, Kerala

Organizers: Archeological Survey of India in association with
Kerala State Tourism, Government of Kerala.

The first National Conference of Project 'Mausam' on Indian Ocean Region: Cultural Landscapes and Maritime Trade Routes of India- Review of existing data and Identification of Potential Coastal Sites, was organized in Bolgatty Palace, Kochi, Kerala from 17th - 19th November 2014 by Archaeological Survey of India, in collaboration with Kerala State Tourism. It was attended by scholars and experts from all over India, IMD, AnSI, CISR- NIO Goa, Indian Naval Academy, Federation of All India Sailing Vessels Industry Federation, officials from ASI, IGNC, Kerala State Tourism, State Archaeology of coastal states of India etc. The conference was organized to reach out to various coastal states and UTs in India, advocating for coastal sites and cultural landscapes that have potential to be part of various events and activities under Project 'Mausam' including active participation in transnational nominations as identified under the Project. It tied up with regional researchers and academics to bring forth their work on a common platform, so as to gain a more holistic understanding of the subcontinent's coastal and maritime history. It aims at enabling collaboration between regional researchers, improving accessibility and dissemination of knowledge across India as well as other countries in the Indian Ocean region in future. The presentations and deliberations from this conference form the basis for preparing for the International Conference under Project 'Mausam' to be hosted by India in February 2015.

Objective of the Conference

The main objectives of the conference were:

- a) Review of existing material and database on 'Monsoon', 'Indian Ocean Region' and 'Coastal cultural landscapes and coastal heritage sites across India' with various organisations and institutions in order to identify future possibilities of data collation and collaborations for the Project.
- b) Review archaeological sites (excavated/unexcavated), architectural and industrial heritage, cultural landscapes along the Indian Ocean Coast in India for marking them as potential sites for transnational nomination under various themes such as 'indentured labour' and others under Project 'Mausam'.
- c) To deliberate on the various themes under Project 'Mausam' in order to provide specific recommendations for the objectives, framework and resource persons for the International Conference proposed in February 2015.

Themes of the Conference

The themes of the sessions were focused on the various aspects of Indian Ocean Region. The conference was divided into 4 themes. These are as follows:

1. Existing database on Monsoon and Indian Ocean Region,
2. Maritime Cultural Landscapes and Sites along the Indian Ocean Routes,
3. History of interactions and exchange in Indian Ocean World and
4. Special session on Spice Route.

17th November 2014

Inaugural Session

Dr. Rakesh Tewari, **Director General, ASI** expressed his gratitude to all the attending participants, followed with Speech by **Secretary, Ministry of Culture**, who inaugurated the conference and explained the scope and magnitude of the project. He emphasized of the need to look at a wider region in terms of the Project and work towards bringing out the linkages with other areas. It was emphasized that the deliberations from this conference would form the basis for the

International Conference to be hosted on Goa from 13th - 15th February, 2015. Member Secretary, IGNCIA introduced Project 'Mausam' to the delegates and explained the institutional mechanism of the project. Smt. Anupama IAS, Additional Director (General), Department of Tourism, Kerala, expressed her gratitude to the organizers and participants. She gave a brief presentation on Spice Route initiative and Muziris Heritage Project by Kerala Tourism.

Session I – Existing database on Monsoon and Indian Ocean Region

Sh. B.M.Pande, Member of the Academic committee, IGNCIA, along with rapporteur, Mr. Adithya Pillai, IGNCIA Research Unit started the session.

Ms. Veena Joshi, Joint Secretary, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts talked on some of the existing works done by IGNCIA under the identified themes of Project Mausam since the inception of this project in March 2014. The presentation also provided an overview of the major research projects undertaken by IGNCIA earlier that focus on the coastal regions of East Africa, the Arab world, the Indian subcontinent and South East Asia.

Dr. K. Santosh, Director, Meteorological Centre, India Meteorological Department, Trivandrum discussed the data archival procedures and data in the archives of IMD. The presentation formed a link the existing database at IMD in order to understand the transformations in monsoon patterns through centuries along the Indian Ocean coast.

Dr. C.R. Sathyanarayanan, Deputy Director, Anthropological Survey of India and **Dr. Umesh Kumar**, Human Ecologist, Anthropological Survey of India presented on the Boat Typology and Fishing Techniques and Fishing communities of Andaman and Nicobar Islands by A. Justin and Fishing communities of Bengal, Coromandel Coast, Andaman and Nicobar Islands & Lakshadweep. It was suggested that AnSI can provide data and information on communities relevant to the project and organize exhibition on typology of boats and fishing techniques in South Asia.

Dr.A.S. Gaur, CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography, Goa presented on the **Archival Sources on Maritime History**. In an attempt to access the records of the maritime archaeological investigations, he said that National Institute of Oceanography has collected the information between 1983 and 1990 on over 200 shipwrecks along the Indian coast.

Captain Rajvir Singh, Joint Registrar, Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala discussed the Publication on Maritime Heritage of India by Indian Navy and its contents with the participants.

Mr. A.Sikkawala, Federation of All India Sailing Vessels Industry Association presented a comprehensive assessment of the Indian Sailing Vessels across centuries. It included the various typologies of sailing vessels and their construction, the golden period of sailing vessels and the subsequent plight of sailing vessels after advent of European powers. Finally, he talked about the gradual rebirth of sailing vessels industry and their contemporary significance today.

The following recommendations for Session I were made:

- a) IGCA may sort and place its past database/activities/projects linked to Project Mausam online on the Project Mausam webpage under a section 'Past Projects linked to Mausam'.
- b) AnSI may provide its process of eco-cultural zones mapping and socio-cultural mapping for coastal regions for further use under Project Mausam. They may also provide the documentation on fishing communities and boat building and navigational patterns. They may be involved in organising an exhibition on boat building for the Festivals of India in Indonesia and Australia.
- c) CSIR-NIO may work with ASI as per MoU signed on 22.08.2014.
 - i) Underwater archaeology,
 - ii) Excavations on shipwrecks and mapping of all shipwrecks along the coast and,
 - iii) CSIR-NIO and other institutions may consider showcasing their research, documentation on anchors, shipwrecks and maritime related themes in an exhibition (categorized country wise in a relevant storyline) for the international conference in Feb. 2015
- d) All India Sailing Vessels Federation may provide a proposal to the Ministry of Culture on the concept of Heritage Ports and on promotion of sailing vessels routes to tie up with their existing

voyages. They may also provide archival data available with them for use in Project Mausam research work. International cultural programmes on lines of traditional sailing vessels may be conducted and people from other countries may be invited. They may support relevant institutions in compiling traditional navigational techniques. A sailing vessels museum may be proposed for consideration.

e) Indian Meteorological Department to provide a background paper on the changes and transformations in Monsoon and its subsequent impact on coastal areas since early 19th c based on existing readings available with them. May also provide information related to Monsoon changes prior to 1800 based on their research.

Session II – Maritime Cultural Landscapes and Sites along the Indian Ocean Routes

Dr. I.B. Singh along with rapporteur, Ms. Debarati Mitra Rawat, ASI started the session.

Dr. Sunil Gupta, Allahabad Museum presented on the archaeological perspective on Early Indian Ocean Exchange Networks from the Red Sea to the South China Sea and beyond. He discussed how the Indian Ocean, as an interactive sphere, developed in time, emerging as a complement to civilization processes on mainland Asia and how archaeological finds are a record of this. The presentation focused on events, episodes and material culture processes along the Indian Ocean rim in deep time perspective (500 BC – 500 AD).

Dr. S. Suresh, Tamil Nadu State Convener, Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), Chennai presented on the ancient trade sites in Andhra on the basis of discoveries of trade sites and trade-related objects including ceramics and coins in many sites on the coastal stretch in the Vishakapatnam area of Andhra Pradesh. Such objects include the Roman amphora jars, the roulette-style pottery and of course, Roman coins, mainly of gold and to a lesser extent, silver.

Dr. Madhulika Samanta, Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India, Excavations Branch V, Vadodara presented on the concepts of city and market on the basis of preliminary investigations in Roman Barygaza or Bharhuch of Gujarat Coast, India explained with a case study of Urban Centres along the Trade Routes in the Western India with special reference to Bharuch. The presentation was based on the findings of the first season (2013-14) of field work, excavations and laboratory studies.

Dr. Vasanthi, Director, Tamil nadu Archaeology presented on the role of ancient ports in promoting trade and culture of Tamil nadu in South East Asia. She discussed the important trade centres in Tamil Nadu and case studies of Alagankulam, Poompuhar, Kizharveli, Tarangambadi, ,Nagapattinam.

Prof.Dr. K.S. Mathew, Director, Institute for Research in Social Sciences and Humanities (IRSSH), Kannaur, presented on the exclusive maritime trade routes and the Portuguese monuments on the Malabar Coast. Few of the Portuguese commercial establishments on the Malabar Coast(factories and fortresses) were discussed since they were the pioneers in discovering the direct sea-route or exclusive maritime trade route connecting Western coast of India with the ports of the Atlantic.

Dr. Bhuvan Vikrama, Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India,Bhubaneswar Circle presented on **Kalinga- The land of seafarer**, a maritime power, which played a major role in transporting Indian culture into the south East Asia. He discussed the archaeological evidences, folklores and other tradition in Odisha refer to the flourishing sea trade in the ancient times which shaped and influenced the culture of India.

The following recommendations for Session II weremade:

- a) ASI may take up excavation of S S Indus on a priority basis after bilateral discussions with Sri Lankan authorities. NIO support may be considered.

- b) ASI may map all excavated coastal sites on an all India map in coordination with SAs and State Department of Archaeology (listing excavated sites, ongoing excavations and proposed excavations for each area). A specific format of inventory to be developed to keep a record of all such sites along with their mapping. The preliminary mapping may be completed at the earliest but before the international conference in Feb 2015.
- c) ASI may dialogue with State Archaeology and State Tourism/ Urban Development/Rural Development departments to develop a management plan of each excavated sites.
- d) An overall strategy for excavation of shipwrecks in the coming years should be proposed.

18th November 2014

Session III – History of interactions and exchange in the Indian Ocean World

The session was chaired by Shri Vinay Sheel Oberoi, with rapporteur Smt. Somya Johri, Project Coordination Unit, ACWHM.

Prof. I.B. Singh, Department of Geology, Lucknow University presented on the 'Dynamism of Coastal Zones'. He discussed the changing behavior of the coast line with the changing sea levels over time. He discussed what he termed as the 'Coastal Morphology' and the various architectural structures like light houses, which signify the changing coastline. He suggested that systematic geomorphological study of the coastal areas is required.

Prof. Dr. Rila Mukherjee, Director, Institut de Chandernagor, West Bengal and Professor, Department of History, School of Social Sciences, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad argued on the difference between a historical narrative and a cartographic narrative in reference to European perceptions of India in the Indian Ocean. She discussed how cartographic narrative reveals that India's centrality in the Indian Ocean was assumed only after the 'Chinese Ocean' was relegated to the 'Chinese seas' in European cartographic imagination.

Dr. (Ms.) Night Queen Pankaj, Professor, Department of History, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi presented on the Human Movement – Life and Culture of India Indenture Labourers. She

discussed on how ships carried the indentured labourers from India to Fiji to contribute not only the Sugar Industry but who actively took part in reconstructing modern Fiji of today. Her paper analysed the struggles of the Girmityas - the former Indentured Indian labourers and how with time their success led to better economic futures to capture the trade and commerce of their new homelands. The paper tries to explore their contributions in economy of Fiji. The study will help to reconstruct the distorted and neglected history of the former Indentured Indian labourers in Fiji.

Dr. Sila Tripathi, CSIR- National Institute of Oceanography, Goa presented on the Stone Anchors of Asian Monsoon Countries and discussed the primitive type of stone anchors that have been used in different parts of the world, including India. He discussed the classification of anchors on the basis of typology, shape or region and dated on comparative or complete methods and location of the findings along the coast of the Persian Gulf, African countries, Sri Lanka and Maldives, along the Indian Peninsula; wooden anchors from Thailand and Vietnam, stone and lead stock with wooden anchors from the countries around the Mediterranean Sea. These anchors suggest maritime contacts and transfer of knowledge and technology between people and countries over centuries

Dr.K.S. Saraswat, Scientist (Retd.), Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, Lucknow discussed the transfer of African Crops in the Indian subcontinent, during the third and second millennia BC and interactions between the major agricultural provinces in these distant regions. He pressed on the need of more intensive and focused archaeobotanical studies in Africa, Arabia and the coastal regions in western India to have an in depth perspective of the problem of contacts between South Asia and Africa, which are widely separated by Indian Ocean and without direct lines of communications.

Mr. Arup Ganguly, Curator, Institut de Chandernagor presented on The Museum at Chandernagor, as a site for Europe- India Interactions containing artefacts denoting European links with Bengal, testifying a long history of linkages and interactions.

Ms. Debarati Mitra Rawat, Assistant Archaeologist, World Heritage Section, Archeological Survey of India presented on the Cult of Maritime deities in the Folktales of Bengal and how these folk tales testify the glory of Bengal trade and the voyages of merchants in distant lands and emergence of various cults of maritime deities in the lower Bengal region in the early part of 15th Century.

The following recommendations for Session III were made:

- a) Systematic geological-geomorphological study of the coastline needs to be carried out. Archeologists working on coastal excavations need to integrate such studies.
- b) Cartographic data and spatial narratives are extremely crucial to understand the changing notions of the Indian Ocean World/ Region as an entity with simultaneous political-economic transformations. Besides European maps it may be essential to study geographical and spatial narratives of Arabs, Indian communities, Jain and Buddhists for a complete local and global understanding of the Indian Ocean.
- c) Review the geographical extents of Project Mausam along Indian coastline to include estuarine and deltaic settlements as geographically, culturally and for trade there was a strong linkage between these and marine settlements.
- d) Collection in museums such as Chandernagor, Pondicherry and others on the coastal areas in India need to be examined for relevance under Project Mausam.
- e) A comprehensive record of maritime folktales and their depiction (maritime cults), interpretations (associated with monsoons, sailors, fishermen and voyages needs to be created) –can be undertaken by AnSI and IGNCA in association with ASI. This may be in the form of an inventory to select the listing of few on the Intangible Cultural Heritage List of UNESCO.
- f) Folk crafts of the coastal region is also an important theme to be covered under Project Mausam.

Session IV- Special Session on Spice Route

The session was chaired by Dr. B.R. Mani, Additional Director general, ASI, with Rapporteur Dr. Sujith, ASI

Dr. P.J. Cherian, Director, Kerala Council for Historical Research **Dr.M. Nambrajan** presented on the findings of port sites of Pattanam and the work that has been done till now.

Dr. Benny Kuriakose, On behalf of Kerala Tourism presented on the Muziris Heritage Project and Spice Route Project of Kerala Tourism. He discussed the initiatives by the Government of Kerala on the conservation of various monuments and historic buildings.

The following recommendations for Session IV were made:

- a) Muziris Heritage Project is a good example of an integrated management and sustainable development. It is also a good example of research driven heritage project.
- b) The usage of term 'Spice Route' has a limited connotation based on European history and may fall into a similar trap as the 'Silk Route' in the long run. While Kerala Tourism may use this term as a Tourism-marketing strategy, it may or may not qualify as a route for transnational nomination under Project Mausam which has a much wider scope in terms of centuries of trade of a wide range of goods and cultural exchanges through maritime routes in the Indian Ocean.
- c) Besides the transnational nominations to be undertaken by ASI, the academic committee for Project Mausam will also investigate the transoceanic links with other institutions and museums.

The 2 day conference ended with broad recommendations for each session. This was followed by site visit to Pattanam and other sites related to Muziris Heritage Project by Kerala Tourism.

Annexure I: Detailed Programme

Day 1: Monday, 17 th November 2014	
Inaugural Session	
9:30 am– 10.15 am	Registration
10.15 am- 10.20 am	Felicitation of Guests
10.20 am-10.25 am	Lighting of the Lamp
10.25 am- 10:30am	Welcome Address by Dr. Rakesh Tewari, Director General,ASI
10.30 am-10.40 am	Inaugural Address by Shri. Ravindra Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Culture
10.40 am – 10.50 am	Introduction to Project ‘Mausam’ bySmt. Dipali Khanna, MS, IGCA
10.50 am – 11.00 am	Vote of Thanks bySmt. Anupama IAS, Additional Director(General), Department of Tourism, Kerala
11.00 am- 11.15 am	Tea/ Coffee Break
Session I – Existing database on Monsoon and Indian Ocean Region Chair: Shri. B.M.Pandey, Rapporteur: Mr. Adithya Pillai, IGCA Research Unit	
11.15 am – 11.30am	<i>‘Initiatives of IGCA’</i> by Ms. Veena Joshi, Joint Secretary, IGCA
11.30 am – 11.45am	<i>‘Weather and Climate Data Services of IMD for the Indian Monsoon Region’</i> by Dr. K. Santosh,Director, India Meteorological Department
11.45am – 12.00 pm	<i>‘Boat Typology and Fishing Techniques in South Asia Region’</i> by Dr. C.R. Sathyanarayanan, Deputy Director and Dr. Umesh Kumar, Human Ecologist, Anthropological Survey of India
12.00 pm– 12.15 pm	<i>‘Archival Sources on Maritime History’</i> by Mr. A.S. Gaur, National Institute of Oceanography
12.15 pm – 12.30pm	<i>‘Publication on Maritime Heritage of India by Indian Navy’</i> by Captain Rajvir Singh, Joint Registrar, Indian Naval Academy
12.30 pm – 12.45 pm	<i>‘Indian Sailing Vessels’</i> by Mr. A. Sikkawala, Federation of All India Sailing Vessels Industry Association
12.45pm -1.00 pm	<i>‘Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and its synergies with Project ‘Mausam’</i> by Representative, ICCR
1.00 pm- 2.00 pm	Lunch

Session II – Maritime Cultural Landscapes and Sites along the Indian Ocean Routes Chair: Dr. I.B. Singh; Rapporteur: Ms. Debarati Mitra Rawat, ASI	
2.00 pm – 2.30 pm	<i>'Early Indian Ocean Exchange Networks from the Red Sea to the South China Sea and Beyond: An Archaeological Perspective'</i> by Dr. Sunil Gupta , Allahabad Museum.
2.30 pm- 3.00 pm	<i>'Commerce, Coins, Culture, Ceramics- New Light to Early Trade Sites in Coastal Andhra Pradesh'</i> by Dr. S.Suresh , Tamil Nadu State Convener
3.00 pm-3.30 pm	<i>'Market and Cities and Market in Cities: Preliminary Investigations in Roman Barygaza or Bharhuch of Gujarat Coast, India'</i> by Dr. Madhulika Samanta , Superintending Archaeologist, ASI, Excavations Branch, Vadodara.
3.30pm -4.00 pm	<i>'Role of Ancient Ports in promoting trade and culture of Tamil Nadu in South East Asia'</i> by Dr. Vasanthi , Director, Tamil Nadu Archaeology
4.00pm-4.15 pm	Tea/Coffee Break
4.15pm – 4.45 pm	<i>'Exclusive Maritime Trade Routes and the Portuguese Monuments on the Malabar Coast'</i> by Prof. Dr.K.S. Mathew , Hon. Director, Institute for Research in Social Sciences and Humanities, Kannaur.
4.45 pm –5.15 pm	<i>'Kalinga- The land of seafarers- Archaeological Markers, Folklores and Traditions'</i> by Dr. Bhuvan Vikrama , Superintending Archaeologist, ASI, Bhubaneswar Circle.
5.15 pm- 5.45 pm	Discussions

Day 2: Tuesday, 18th November 2014	
Session III – History of interactions and exchange in the Indian Ocean World Chair: Mr. Vinay Sheel Oberoi, Rapporteur: Ms. Somya Johri, Project Coordination Unit	
10.00 am- 10.30am	'Dynamism of Coastal Zones' by Prof. I.B. Singh, Department of Geology, Lucknow University
10.30am-11.00am	"The 'Indian' Ocean and India: A Cartographic Enigma" by Rila Mukherjee, Director, Institut de Chandernagor, West Bengal and Professor, Department of History, School of Social Sciences, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad.
11.00 am – 11.30 am	'Human Movement- Life and Culture of India Indentured labours by Dr. (Ms.) Night Queen Pankaj, Professor, Department of History, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi
11.30 am – 11.45am	Tea/ Coffee Break
11.45am – 12.15 pm	'Stone Anchors of Asian Monsoon Countries' by Dr. Sila Tripathi, NIO
12.15 pm – 12.45 pm	'Diffusion of African Crops in Ancient India' by K.S. Saraswat, Scientist (Retd.), Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, Lucknow.
12.45 pm- 1.15 pm	'The Institut de Chandernagor Museum: A Site for Europe- India Interactions' by Mr. Arup Ganguly, Curator, Institut de Chandernagor.
1.15 pm- 1.30 pm	'The Cult of Maritime deities in the Folktales of Bengal' by Ms. Debarati Mitra Rawat, Assistant Archaeologist, World Heritage Section, ASI.
1.30pm -2.30 pm	Lunch
Session IV– Special Session on Spice Route Chair: Dr. B.R.Mani, Additional Director General, ASI, Rapporteur: Dr. Sujith Kumar, ASI	
2.30 pm – 3.00 pm	'Pattanam Excavations' by Dr. P.J. Cherian, Director, Kerala Council for Historical Research (Could not attend so was briefed by Dr. M. Nabirajan)
3.00 pm –3.30 pm	'Muziris Heritage Project and Spice Route Project of Kerala Tourism' by Dr. Benny Kuriakose, on behalf of Kerala Tourism
3.30 pm –3.45 pm	Discussions
3.45 pm- 4.00 pm	Tea/Coffee Break
Closing Session and Recommendations	
4.00 pm- 4.15 pm	Recommendations of Session I- IV to be summarised and presented by Dr. Shikha Jain, MS, ACWHM
4.15 pm – 4.30 pm	Closing Remarks by Dr. Nambirajan, Director, World Heritage Section, ASI
Day 3: Wednesday, 19th November 2014	
10.00 am- 4.00 pm	Site visit to Pattanam and other site related to Muziris Heritage Project (Full day programme to be provided by Kerala Tourism)