

Three officers. Many a book of those times proudly bears...

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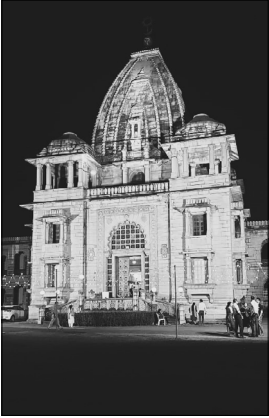
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Dharohar | a quarterly newsletter



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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

A Vibrant People's Heritage Week

November is considered the start of winter and what better time to welcome the festival season with the joyous festival of lights that brings cheer to every household. This is followed by the much-awaited People's Heritage Week.

This year, Heritage Trust curated a number of exciting events that drew enthusiasts outdoors. For those of you who participated, we carry some interesting reminiscences and feedback from some of the participants. If you missed any of them it will surely beckon you to mark your calendars for future events. That many of our events went house-full is testimony to the popularity of the programs

Our quarterly member interaction, Varsa ni Vaat saw the second edition in October of last year and we are all prepared to bring you another exciting third edition in January. We do hope to see you partake of this wonderful insights into different aspects of heritage.

On a sad note, we regret to announce the passing away of Prof. Ghanshambhai Joshi on January 2nd, 2024. Prof. Joshi was a great supporter of Heritage Trust especially in our efforts to obtain UNESCO recognition for the Champaner Pavagadh archaeological site. We pay our respects to the departed soul and convey our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

We wish our readers a Happy New Year 2024.

Avi Sabavala

Moghulwada **Marvels**

Moghulwada, the heart of the old-walled city is a treasure haul of old memories, street food, bakery and non-veg preparations. Walking around the Mandvi-Moghulwada road, we saw old homes with intricate jharokha-work on the balconies, narrow lanes that open up to a chowk for people to meet-greet and eat together. The walkers munched on Shri Ram Tam-Tam chavaanu, sugar-candies and saw a 100 year old National Bakery and sampled their biscuits and cream-rolls.

We saw stockists of groceries, masala merchants and jaggery where people visit when they store grains and masalas for the whole year. Everyone sat in for a dinner at Shalimaar restaurant, serving delicious Biryani, Nalli-Nihari and Tandoor delicacies for over 3 generations. Folks polished off the experience with a glassful of Falooda the perfect dessert laced with rose syrup, cold milk, sev and icecream.

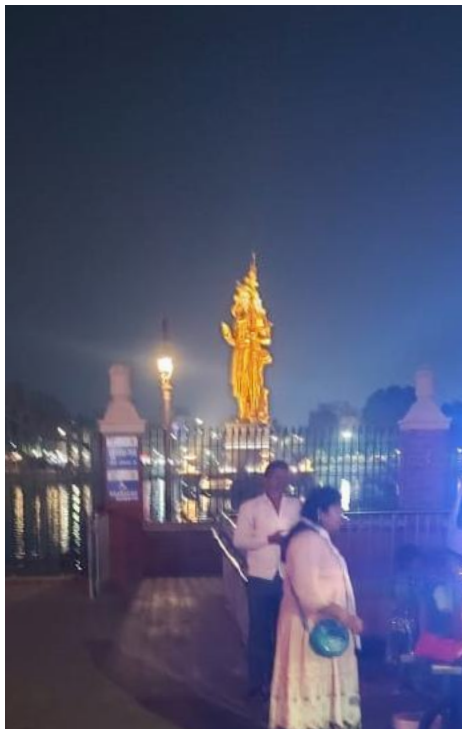
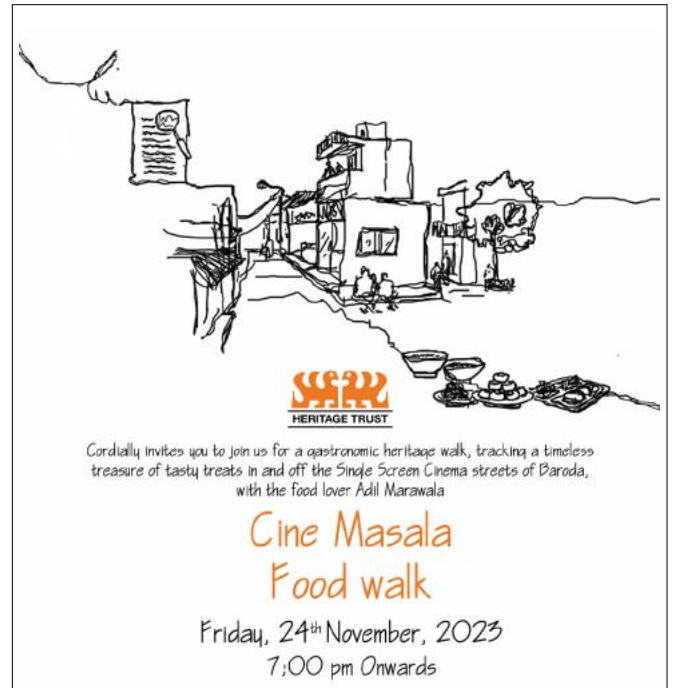
Harjeet Singh Gill, an avid cyclist says "Moghulwada takes me back to Dilli-6 experience of having food in narrow lanes around Jama Masjid. This is a fascinating place where people still live and celebrate festivals together". Nikita Batra, an academican said, "It is easy to get lost in these narrow lanes, we can lose direction and sense of time as we appreciate old structures and delicious preparations at family-owned restaurants".



Cine-Masala

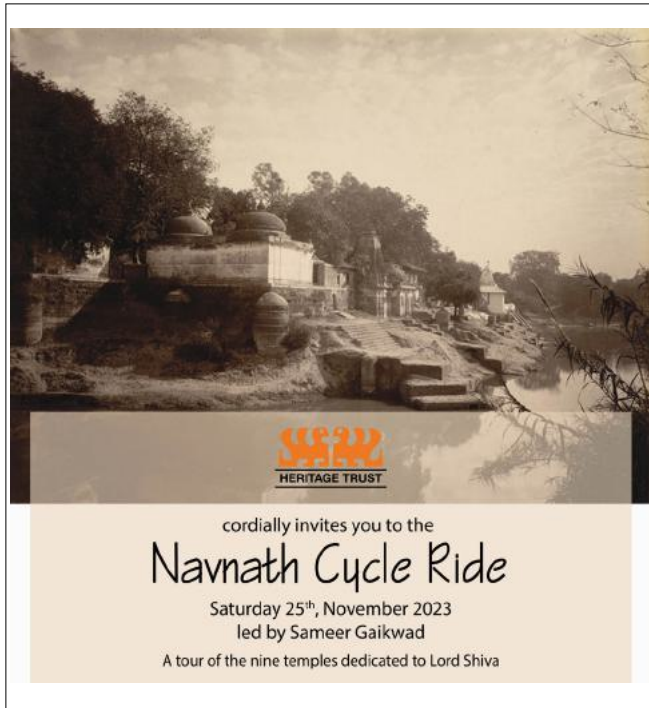
For the first time, we merged the worlds of popular food haunts and the Single cinema halls to have a blockbuster evening. We saw the grand art-deco of Pratap Cinema, established in patronage of the Gaekwad-era. We munched through popular interval-snacks like Patti Samosa, Cream rolls and then walked around the Sursagar lake to immerse oneself in nostalgia tasting Pyarelal Kachori, Samrat ice cream, Jagdish farsaan and exotic fruits like channi bor and Kamrakh. Homiyar, an ace lensman said, "I have lot of memories strolling around in old city lanes and bunking school to watch movies in Pratap cinema. I felt back in my teenage years as we experienced CINE-MASALA today".

Dhananjay Moray, an architect by profession, marvelled over the grand balcony and stairs at Pratap hall and said, "Some of the old restaurants are like museums, with the old furniture and even kitchen are still showing the 60s-70s appeal. Maybe that conserves the taste and attachment for the patrons to keep coming again and again here and relish the yummy food".



Navnath Cycle Ride

6 cyclists completed the **9 Navnath temples circuit ride** covering about 40km on 25 Nov during the Heritage week celebrations. The cycle ride was led by Sameer Gaikwad.



Baroda City Kothi Walk

Heritage walk in the Kothi area of the city was led by Sandhya Gajjar during the Heritage week celebrations.

Participant's Feedback

Beautiful captures of a delightful walk. Thank you Sandhyaben for the amazing informative, enriching guided tour. Thank you walk-mates for sharing the photos.

-Margie Sastry, Participant

Thank lot Sandhyaben for the wonderful walk and the info. Had a nice time with all the folks..

-Forum Shah, Participant

Thanks a lot Sandhya for this wonderful heritage walk. Really enjoyed it.

-Shanta Samant, HOD (Sculpture Dept, Faculty of Fine arts) Participant

Thank you for the wonderful, informative city walk Sandhya.

-Rita Patel, Participant



Makarpura Medley

A day out with Heritage!

Makarpura Medley included a visit to Bodhi, where the participants explored the methodology of Printing on cloth, with wooden blocks, followed by a brunch.

Participant's Feedback

Thank you Sandhya for organizing the event , the wonderful introduction to Baroda and the Lucky lunch. Mala's stories are so amazing and the Bodhi shop so tempting! The hands-on block printing was so much fun!

-Margie Sastry, Participant

Very nice program. Thank you Sandhya and Mala.

-Madhulika, Ex-ONGC, Participant

A Very enjoyable, exciting experience today...Many Thanks to Mala for the wonderful information and insights and all the beautiful final products display in your well designed shop...and to Sandhya too, for organizing this walk...

-Rajeshri Sabnis, Participant



The Coin Story

The Heritage session of Coin display and discussion of Gaekwad era coins at Honest Jewellers on Monday morning was a revelation of the range of coins and the deep interest and knowledge of Zubair Motiwala, who owns the collection and the shop that was the venue for the event.

Studying coins is more than just looking at the metallic bits of economic exchange. It tells you so much about the history, politics, language, and economic condition of the era to which they belong. At first, there seemed to be coins just randomly laid out on a tray, of various sizes, designs and weights. But then the more precious collection was brought out, neatly labelled and carefully packed in transparent pouches. As Mr. Motiwala explained, the Gaekwad era coins could be identified by the initials of the ruling king, Sa Ga inscribed in Farsi, indicating Sayajirao II and Ga Ga Ganpatrao Gaekwad or KH Ga, Khanderao Gaekwad. On the flip side of the coin was the mark of the ruler in Delhi.

The script on the coins also is indicative of the history of language, as the coinages had Farsi, Devnagari and then English to indicate the value of the coins. Only a few of the princely states had their own coins minted and Baroda was among those, with 5 different mints in the state. To a discerning collector, each coin can also be identified by the mint mark where it was manufactured/minted. For example, a coin of half a rupee with the Gaekwad mark on one side and Shah Alam on the other, had the sign of the elephant goad on top, the ankush, identifying the Ahmedabad mint. Farsi was the common connecting language during the Mughal era (as obvious by a popular adage in Hindi. Haath kangan ko aarsi kya, Padhe likhe ko farsi kya? (You don't need a mirror to see a bracelet on the arm, you don't have to ask an educated person if he knows Farsi) It is interesting that the transition of the scripts is gradual, with the Persian script being pushed to the side as the Devanagari MA GA takes centre stage in the coins of Malhar Rao. The coins of Sayaji Rao II have Muhammad Akbar's name on the other side. The one-rupee coin of Sayajirao III has his side profile bust and the value and date 1955 in Devanagari.

The coin collection has coins made of copper, silver, gold. Though copper is obviously the cheaper metal and used for coins of lower denomination, Zubair pointed out that the availability of a large number of small coins indicated the health of the local economy, the smaller coins there were in circulation, the better off the common people were in that area and era, a simple but insightful observation.



The older coins were hand-made, bulky, unequal, with rough edges, but with an old-world charm and appeal. The later ones are more familiar with the clear machine made, edges and uniform appearance, looking like coins we use now. The etching of the profile of the ruler, was an influence of the colonial coins, which had Queen Victoria's face.

In the age that the use of cash coins and notes is fast disappearing, the event on heritage coins becomes all the more relevant. Most of us have small hoards of coins from our younger days and some foreign coins given by a well-travelled relative, but to see a collection that has been carefully preserved, labelled and documented is a treat indeed. Do people cultivate hobbies anymore, I wonder!


I have a whole bundle of coins from a few decades ago, when, while working from home, I kept a bowl of small change near the door, for the two girls who worked with me, to use for their bus fare. The bowl somehow got put away among other things and when I discovered it thirty years later, it was of no use, because, unlike the gold, silver copper coins of yore, these were five and ten paise of aluminum. Some day they will emerge again, less valuable than before!

Margie Sastry

Varsa ni Vaato

Varsa ni Vato, is our new initiative to connect with our members more frequently through an organised series of short interactions with experts, who will share their experiences and perspectives with us on a range of different topics. Our first edition of this program was held on the 8th of July.


In the second edition held on 7th October 2023, speakers for the evening Avi Sabawala spoke on UNESCO Natural Heritage sites of Assam (Kaziranga and Manas) and Anirudh Dehade spoke on Rebuilding Heritage: The Raja Ravi Varma Studio.



Cordially invites you to

वार्सा नी वातो

Conversations around Conservation



Our new initiative to connect with our members through a series of short interactions with experts, who will share their experiences and perspectives with us on a range of topics.

We invite you to join us on the
October 7th 2023, 5:30 PM Onwards

Our speakers for the evening are:
Avi Sabawala : UNESCO Natural Heritage sites of Assam (Kaziranga and Manas)
Anirudh Dehade : Rebuilding Heritage - The Raja Ravi Varma Studio




In the News

Prof Ghanshambhai Joshi, Champaner based local historian of the Heritage site passed away. He was 89. His continued support to Heritage Trust's initiatives at Champaner Pavagadh and his enthusiastic participation in our struggle to get the site UNESCO recognition was invaluable. For more than 30 years he continued to be one of the authentic English, Hindi and Gujarati speaking, very well informed guide for visitors to the site.




Upcoming Events


HERITAGE TRUST
Cordially invites you to

Makarpura Medley

The Workshop


Saturday, 27th January, 2024
10:00am Onwards



A day out with Heritage !!!
The event will include a visit to Bodhi, followed by a brunch.
Registration is compulsory on a first-come first-served basis (Rs. 500 per head),
Maximum 25 persons.

Heritage Trust announces **Makarpura Medley** event on Saturday, Jan 27th from 10 am to 2 pm. The event will be held at the Bodhi studio and workshop in Makarpura followed by lunch at Lucky Restaurant.


Fees: Rs 500 per person. Not more than 25 persons in the batch. Please call Sandhya Gajjar on +91 98250 40410 for registration.


HERITAGE TRUST
cordially invites you to join us for a walk exploring the

ALAVI BOHRA-BADRI MOHALLA

Sunday, 11th Feb 2024, 6:00 pm sharp

The walk will explore the culture of the Bohra Community at the Badri Mohalla, Wadi and culminate in a traditional Bohri Meal




This is a Culture and Food Walk, walkers will have to be able to sit down for the traditional 'Thadi' style meal. You will be registered once the payment is made and receipt is sent back to us along with the details of meal preference (veg/non-veg). **Limited seats, early bird registrations (20 seats)**


Last Date of Registration :
05.02.2024

Rates:
Veg Meal : Rs 700/- per person
Non-Veg Meal: Rs 900/- per person

Payment QR :



QR for Veg Meal



QR for Non-Veg Meal

Meeting Point:
Alavi Bohra Noorani Masjid,
Wadi, Vadodara
Contact us at :
heritagetrustvadodara@gmail.com