

Core Committee

Sameer Khera
Sameer Gaikwad
Arati Desai
Rati Desai
Jaideep Verma
Sandhya Gajjar
Jal Patel

Editorial Team

Avi Sabavala
Arati Desai
Alka Smart

Design and Layout

Swapna Kothari
Shivani Pikle

Write to us at

623, GIDC Industrial
Estate, Makarpura,
Vadodara 390010.
Gujarat .India
heritagetrustvadodara@gmail.com

Or visit us on

<https://www.heritagetrustbaroda.org/>

And on Facebook
@heritagetrustbaroda

From the Editor's Desk:

Tis the season to celebrate

It's been an exciting three months of festivities beginning with the festival of Dussehra and Diwali and will now end with the Christmas season before we ring in the new year.

Amidst these celebrations, heritage lovers had reason for a special celebration of the People's Heritage Week. As always, there were numerous programs by various organizations and individual enthusiasts that showcased different aspects of our wonderful heritage. From home exhibitions to museums and from cycle rides and walks to talks, there was something for everyone.

We bring you glimpses of our own Heritage Trust events that reached out to all citizens of our city. These events were enjoyed by people from all walks of life and culminated in an interesting Viraasat lecture. A special feature was a photography competition that was held on Facebook. We bring you glimpses from these exciting events.

We are happy to announce that the Supreme Court has delivered a judgement in our PIL regarding the proposed construction by the Indian Railways in front of the Pratap Vilas Palace. The proposed construction is to be relocated thus saving this iconic structure as well as the biodiversity around it.

As of going to the press we are also glad to note that the Vadodara Municipal Corporation will take possession of a Nyay Mandir. Our Trust has been actively engaging with the policymakers to ensure maintenance of this building as well as Tambekar Wada. Executive Committee members will be doing a special run-on behalf of Heritage Trust at the forthcoming Vadodara Marathon 2023 to raise awareness and sensitive citizens and the administration towards City heritage with special focus on these buildings.

We wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year 2023.

Avi Sabavala

The Laurie Baker Walk

Architecture communicates about its time, but covets timelessness. If that is the yardstick for good architecture, Laurie Baker's buildings have not only stood the test of time, but are an integral part of Vadodara's celebrated architecture.

So, during the World Heritage Week celebrations, the Heritage Trust organized a heritage walk to cover three buildings designed by him. It was an effort to make Vadodarians more aware about its treasurable heritage, instill a sense of pride about the buildings around them, and understand the architectural narrative of Laurie Baker.

Lawrence Wilfred 'Laurie' Baker was a British-born Indian architect, renowned for his initiatives in cost-effective, energy-efficient architecture and designs that maximized space, ventilation, and light, and maintained an uncluttered yet striking aesthetic sensibility. He designed with a holistic vision, rare compassion, economic outlook, and sustainable principles, well before sustainability became center stage. His method was the very opposite of the prevalent model in India which followed the British system.

As the participants saw the structures built by him at Navrachana School, Sama, and Jyoti Ltd., it was evident that his architectural marvels which were built decades ago to serve people's purposes at that time, continue to be relevant even today. Pragya took the participants through the finer architectural details, while Aarti took care of the organizing part and Avi converted those moments into memories.

Manjeet Khurana



Glimpses from the Laurie Baker Walk

Walk through @ the Coin Museum

Tucked away behind the green environs at Ajwa, just before you reach the famed gardens lies a unique but little-known Coin Museum that belongs to the Kapoor family. A treasure trove of currencies from the prehistoric era to the modern times, its a splendid example of how a numismatist has turned his passion into an initiative that unveils the past for the visitor. The owner Raj Kapoor and our very own coin enthusiast Zuber Motiwala unveiled the treasures that lie in its precincts. It was a wonderful insight for the participants who signed up to learn how currencies of today evolved from the earliest human settlements along with the growth of human civilization.

While learning about the history of coins, we had an interesting recap of our history of rulers especially of the Baroda State as well as of British India and of post independent India. It's a must visit for any person who is a

numismatist as well as a beginner who is piqued by the hobby of collecting coins.

We extend our gratitude to Mr. Raj Kapoor and Mr. Zuber Motiwala for the warm hospitality and enthusiasm with which we could enjoy the story of coins.

Photos and text by Avi Sabavala



Glimpses from the Coin Museum Walk Through

The Railway Model Room

The Railway Model room is situated within the precincts of the Pratap Vilas Palace which houses the Railway Staff College now renamed as the National Academy of the Indian Railways (NAIR)..

While we would have used the services of the railways, not many know of this room which houses working models of how the railways have evolved in India through continuous innovation to ferry goods and humans across the length and breadth of our country. Indeed, it is one of the most trusted modes of transportation for the common man that is both economical and ecologically friendly.

Heritage Trust arranged a special visit to view this model room and about 25 people including few young children signed up for this visit. We place on record our gratitude to the Director General for according us permission to visit the model room. We also place on record our appreciation to Mr. Bhatia and his team for enthusiastically giving us a live demonstration of the various models and how the earliest trains worked. It was an exciting journey for all of us to see how technology has worked to meet the transportation needs of the common man.

Avi Sabavala



Glimpses from
the Railway
Model Room
Walk Through



Glimpses from the Viraasat Lecture titled:

Heritage Activism in Goa : A Roller Coaster Ride

By Ms. Heta Pandit

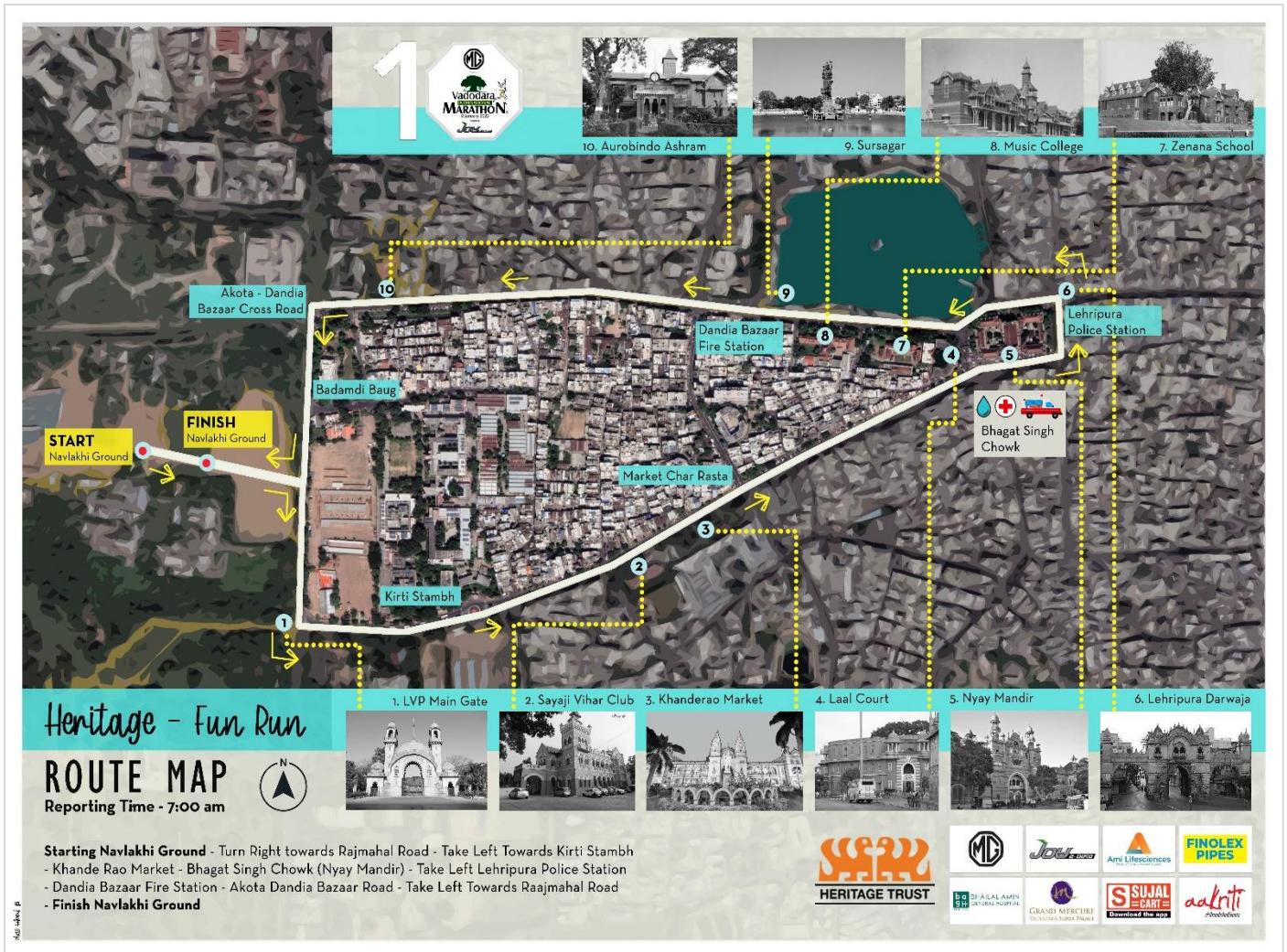
With the event graced by

HH Rajmata Shubhangini Raje Gaekwad

Viraasat – Saving the Heritage of Goa

As a part of the Heritage Week 2022 celebrations, the Heritage Trust organized its annual Viraasat Lecture, 'Heritage Activism in Goa: A Roller Coaster Ride, on the 27th of November 2022 at the FGI auditorium. The speaker, Ms. Heta Pandit has been a Heritage conservation activist for over 25 years. She cofounded the Goa Heritage action group in 2000. Ms. Pandit offered several insights on how to go about reviving the interest in Heritage conservation among people. The Rajmata, Shubhangini Raje Gaekwad, released Ms. Pandit's recently published book, *Stories from Goan Houses*, which focuses more on why old Goan houses continue to live on. The book is an anthology of stories from few selected houses in Goa. These stories are of inherited wealth, ideas, artefacts, design, and technology, featuring 21 old Goan homes with photographs by young photographer Daniel D'Souza, who attended the talk as well.

Arati Desai

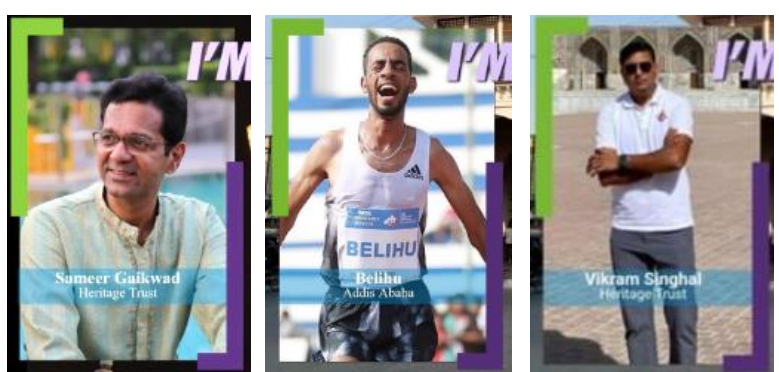


Heritage Trust is delighted to note that this year the Vadodara Marathon 2023 is officially rechristened as Vadodara Heritage Marathon. Meet our runners.

HERITAGE TRUST
Cordially invites you to
Makarpura Medley
The Workshop
Saturday 21st January, 2023
9:45 am Onwards

A day out with Heritage !!!
The event will include Workshop on Block Printing @ Bodhi, exploring the methodology of printing on cloth with wooden blocks that developed many centuries back, followed by a brunch @ the Lucky Dhaba. The event will conclude by 2:00 pm
Registration is compulsory on a first-come first-served basis (Rs. 500 per head) and the group size is limited to maximum 15 people.

Scan the QR to Register and Pay
For Queries Contact Us @ :
Email : heritagetrustvadodara@gmail.com



Above: Some of the Runners from the Heritage Marathon

Left: Makarpura Medley – The Workshop
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The event will conclude by 2:00 pm



Navnath Cycle Ride



Raopura Retro-Mance Food Walk



Stepwells Heritage Cycle Ride

Become a member

As a non-profit, we rely on your support as our member and encourage you to send more heritage enthusiasts our way.

Patron Member

Rs. 100,000

Donor Member

Rs. 25,000

Life Member

Rs. 5,000

5 Year Member

Rs. 500

Corporate Patron Member

Rs. 2,00,000

Corporate Donor Member

Rs. 50,000

Corporate Member Rs. 25,000 / year

Have an idea you would like to explore? Want to collaborate or organize an event virtually?

Get in touch with us!



The Jaisingrao Library

Images clicked by Mr. Divyesh Gajjar winner of the Heritage Trust Photo Competition (Source: Instagram)

Publications

Looking for books as gifts? The Trust has published more than half a dozen books, four of which have been on Pavagadh. Three other books on Baroda, one of which is for children, and is still available in print. These would make great corporate gifts in the coming festive season.

Available:

Once Upon a Time...there was Baroda - Rs. 3000/- copy

Children's book on Baroda (Gujarati) - Rs. 20/copy

Future Events:

Makarpura Medley - The Workshop - 21st January 2023