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**From the Editor's Desk:**

A walk-through historical by lanes of Baroda!

The old city of Baroda has many a hidden lane that speaks of interesting history and heritage of this once princely state. A walk through these areas brings us in contact with some beautiful old homes as well as the descendants of luminaries who lent their names to these lanes and created history in their times. We bring two of these lanes alive with an account by Vishvesh, a young Architect who has recently joined our team. Enjoy the virtual walk-through Sureshwar Desai's Lane and Ghantiyada and try exploring the real flavor of the quaint areas,

Tucked neatly and prominently amongst many grandiose structures along the main Mandvi Road is a fine old building, that is the Central Library that has withstood the test of time and housed one of the finest collection of books in six languages. While being a go to place for bookaholics, its an amazing example of architecture, utility and aesthetics and above all a vision of an outstanding ruler who showed concern for the progress of his subjects. Read Advaita's article on the special visit of Heritage Trust to the Library.

If built structures are an important part of our heritage, so are the intangible aspects. Sandhya shares an old recipe from her mothers cookbook, Do try it out and tell us how you relished the taste.

We have a special talk to mark World Heritage Day on April 14th entitled Letters from Lucknow. So do mark your diaries and join us at LVP banquets. The details are given in the announcement in this issue.

Happy reading!

Avi Sabavala

## Into the By Lanes of Baroda

The historical places in the walled city of Vadodara immerse us in the stories they hold within and define diverse facets of the town. The core of the historic settlement of Baroda can be considered a living heritage that carries experiential character associated between the built form and open spaces. Sureshwar Desai's Lane is a well-defined example in the Ghantiyada near Ghadiyali pol, Mandvi

This is an attempt to understand the architectural and social value of Sureshwar Desai's Lane and the challenge that these existing built fabric face. Sureshwar Desai managed the city's landholding during the Sultanate period and the financial dealings of the Babi family. Desai was a key person in helping establish the Gaekwadi rule in Vadodara. Desai also helped extend the Chandan Lake in the 1750s, now known as Sursagar lake, with an urban renewal ideology for Baroda.

The Ghantiyada's neighborhood dates back around 300 years; the community became recognized because most of the inhabitants were flour mill holders by occupation, and because of that the neighborhood was named Ghanti-Wada; in the present day, it is Ghantiyada.

This neighborhood settlement still holds physical and social memories. Traditional timber architecture structures of this neighborhood speaks volumes about the traditional knowledge on its constructional techniques and craftsmanship of intricate carvings for its social and religious beliefs. In evolving times, this settlement has faced a significant history of transformation layers that have directly/indirectly impacted the traditional timber houses to be abandoned/endangered. With the growth into accommodating contemporary requirements, it continues to jeopardize the original layer of fabric.

Today the lane does not hold any memory of Sureshwar Desai in a physical form. But Desai's contribution to the development of Baroda is still an asset. With a new growing approach, the study of regional history is focused on urbanization and socio-economic development. Sureshwar Desai's unpublished Khatpatras which have been selected in the context of the history of Baroda, are helpful sources for some aspects of Baroda's urbanization. The papers are in the Persian language and translated into Gujarati.

Desai's contribution to Baroda's growth is collective memory, and slowly, it is being erased from the history of Baroda. It's essential to ensure that these documents withstand the ravages of time. To understand the importance of our heritage, we must remember and rediscuss our Baroda.

Visiting this neighborhood allowed us to engage in fascinating conversations on history, heritage, architecture, culture, and more. It is required to invoke critical thinking about the present conditions and interact with reflections on 'If we know our history? And do we understand our city's heritage?'

Vishvesh Pathak



Image reflects the timber structure and its craftsmanship, now demolished

Source:

Asia art and archives





Illustration locating selected places for the heritage walk - Source: Author



Photo of a demolished place containing signage of Ghantiyada - Source: History of Vadodara, Vadodara By Foot



## Celebrating Public Library – The Central Library Baroda

### A visit to City Public Library:

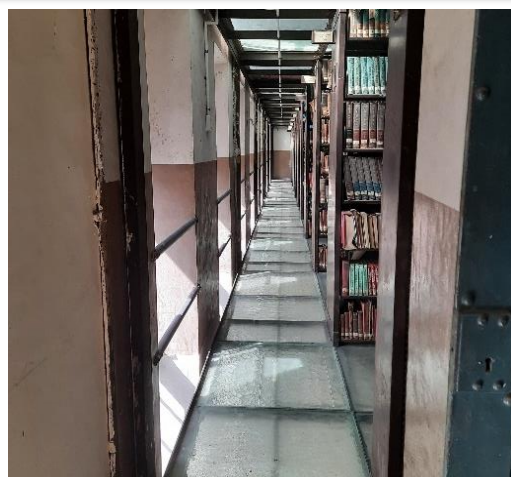
The Central Library Baroda, located within the walled city of Vadodara was built in 1931 during the reign of Maharaja Sayajirao III. Though being an institutional building, the library sits well within the intricate fabric of old city area. The innovative technologies used in the design of the building still holds as an inspiration for many architects today. The library design team comprised of American librarian William Alanson Borden, Architect-Planner Edwin Lutyens with two other local architects who helped in the implementation process. The linear building is positioned along north-south axis maximizing on the natural light through large windows. Glass used in the floors was imported from Belgium. The two-inch-thick glass floors were used in order to allow light to filter through three levels of shelving areas of the library. The standalone steel stacking system are not connected with the walls and the flooring are designed to provide protection from fire and termite. The heavy metal fireproof door was installed to protect the area where books were stacked. The library also comprises of dedicated area for children. The steel frames for shelving books, the Belgian glass floors, the dummy elevator for transferring books between floors and of course the overall design of the building has been a notable contribution to the heritage of Vadodara city. This library also marks the relevance of public institutions such as public libraries to combat illiteracy and a reflection of the progressive vision of Sayajirao III for establishing such institutions during that period of time.

On Saturday, 4th February 2023, at 10:30 am a visit to Central Library Baroda was organized for Executive Committee Members of Heritage Trust. The walk was curated by Mr. Bhavesh Dhondhe, Junior Clerk, Central Library Baroda. The library not only comprises of huge collection of rare books, but also miniature collection of Shakespeare's plays, a wide variety of administrative records and other books written during Sayajirao III and Gaekwad period. The library is popular and serves as an important institution for the community within the old city area. The walk through the library included stories narrating historic relevance, showcasing its collection and the new addition of study areas for students

### An Initiative for The Central Library Baroda:

The 160th birthday celebration of Maharaja Sayajirao III was conducted on Saturday, 11th March 2023 at Central Library Baroda. The event was marked by presence of dignitaries Shri A.B. Gor (IAS, Collector and District Magistrate), Dr. Pankaj K. Goswami (Director of Libraries, Gujarat State, Gandhinagar), Shri N.I. Rohit (Librarian, Govt. District Library, Vadodara), Shri J.K. Chaudhari (State Librarian, Central Library, Vadodara) and others.

Heritage Trust Baroda initiated a documentary prepared on Central Library Baroda as part of the advocacy for protecting and spreading awareness about local history and heritage of Vadodara City. Heritage Trust alongwith its knowledge partner Navrachana University (Bachelor of Journalism and Mass Communication - BAJMC)



Views from the Central Library



students were invited to attend the event. A team of students from BAJMC was put together to prepare this documentary. The promo of the documentary was screened at the event. This initiative was well received, and the promo of documentary was highly appreciated by all.

Advaita Jalan



Glimpses from event.

Copies of “The Baroda Collective” were presented to Dr. Pankaj K. Goswami, and Mr. J. K. Chaudhari by Mr. Jaideep Verma (Jt. Secretary HT) on behalf of Heritage Trust.



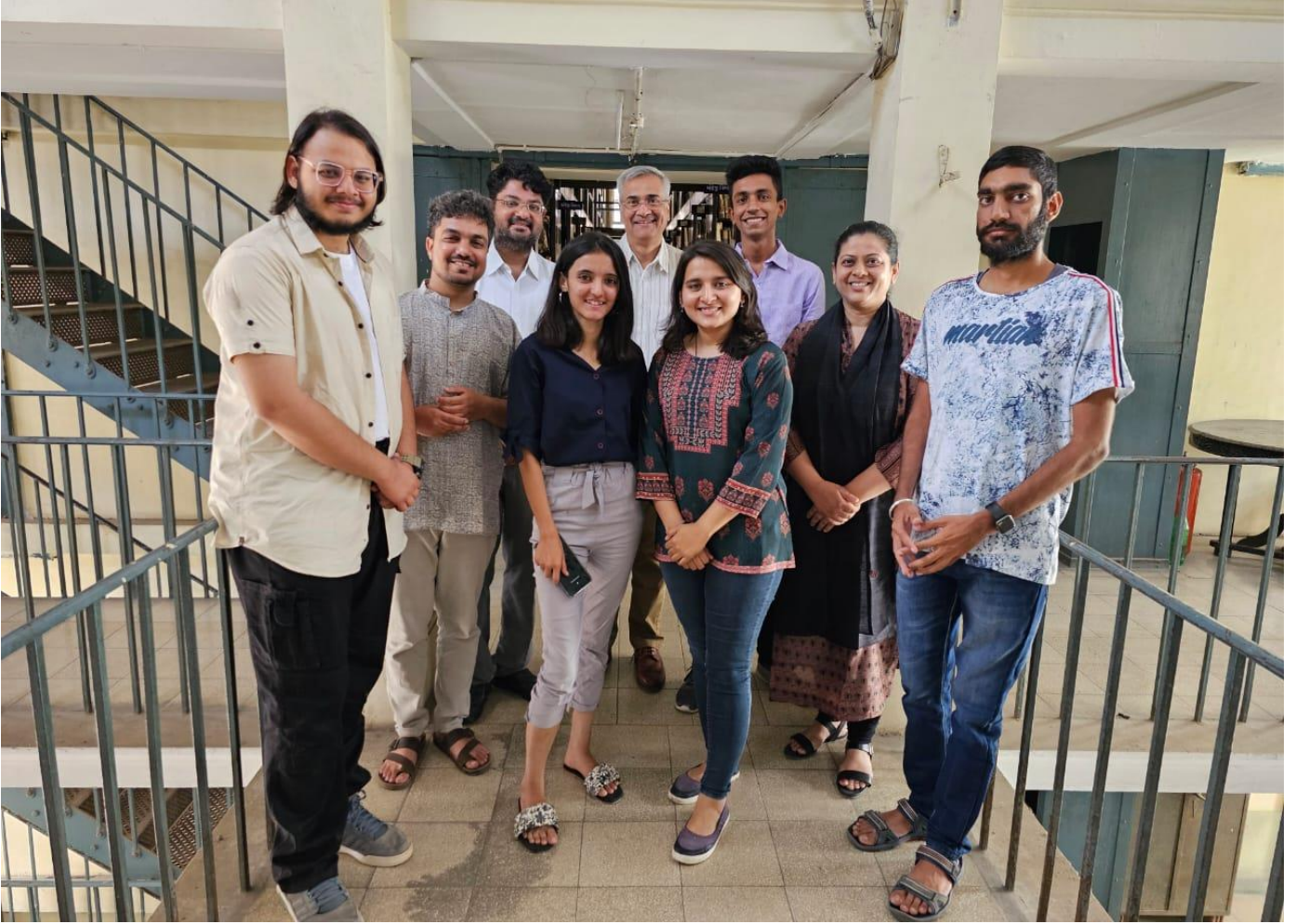


Photo of team comprising of Heritage Trust Members and Navrachana University Faculties and BAJMC students on the day of the event. The attendees from Heritage Trust were Jaideep Verma, Advaita Jalan, Vishvesh Pathak and from Navrachana University were Dr. Jigar Shah, Pranshu Shah, Chaitali Dixit, Sanskruti Pandya, Harshit Khatwani and Kriteyu Vyas.

### How Traditional recipes evolve and re-invent themselves

My mother, a Goud Saraswat Brahmin from Sawantwadi in the Malwan-Konkan area of southern Maharashtra, was suddenly catapulted to Vadodara in 1952 when she married my father. While she cooked the usual fresh coconut gravy-based *Malvani* meals for my father and his siblings who were in school/college in the city, she took interest in the food cooked by her neighbours – mainly Maharashtrian Kokanastha Brahmins, who used fresh grated coconut largely as garnish than in the actual cooking. Since my mother was a very good cook (and I was hopeless!), my children decided to put her recipes they loved into a cookbook, printed in a limited edition for family and friends.

In this issue of *Dharohar*, I share one of the first non-*Malvani* recipes she learnt from our next-door Joshi-*vahini*. It is a simple *dal* (made from the standard *arhar dal*) generally made for lunch in Kokanastha households. It is different from the bland, yellow *varan* (of *varan-bhaat-toop* fame), the standard in Marathi *thali* on auspicious occasions. Hence it is called *Khaati-daal*, (*khaati/khatha* to mean spiced along with a souring agent added such as *kokum*). The special spice mix used in this *daal* is the wonderful *Goda Masala*, a complex mix of several spices, that gives that certain twist to the mouth-watering Marathi *Masale Bhaath*. The *Goda Masala* is available in Vadodara at the Bhanumati Stores on Pratap Road, Dandia Bazaar.

(Recipe on the following page)

So here goes:

### Ingredients:

1 bowl Tuvār/Arhar Daal, washed and soaked for half an hour, 1 teaspoon red chilli powder, half teaspoon turmeric powder, half teaspoon Goda Masala, 1 medium piece jaggery grated, 1 tablespoon lemon juice, salt to taste, a tablespoon of chopped fresh coriander for garnishing. For the tempering: 1 tablespoon oil, 1 green chilli chopped, half teaspoon mustard seeds, 4-5 curry leaves, a pinch of asafetida.

### Method:

In a pressure cooker, put the soaked *tuvar daal*, 3 cups water, turmeric and salt and pressure cook until *daal* is well done. Churn the *daal* briskly so that the grains break up into a thick and smooth liquid. Add the chilli powder, *Goda Masala*, jaggery and lemon juice and mix well. In a small *kadhāi* or tempering vessel, heat the oil. When it is hot, turn the flame to low and add the green chillies, mustard seeds, curry leaves and when the mustard seeds start to splutter, add the asafetida. Immediately pour the tempered oil into the *daal*. Stir well and simmer the *daal* for a few minutes. Garnish with coriander leaves. If you are in a good mood, you can add a handful of freshly grated coconut as well. This *daal* should be served piping hot with steaming rice. A dollop of ghee (*toop*) on the rice before you pour the *daal* over it is like *sone pe suhaga*. Try it, you will love it!

Sandhya Gajjar

### 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.

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Rs. 100,000

#### Donor Member

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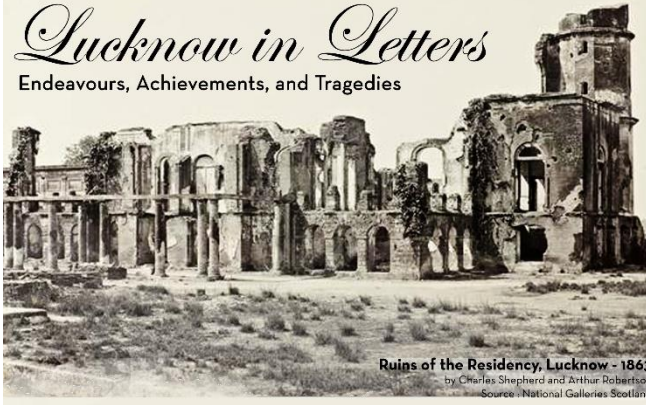
Rs. 25,000 / year

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

Get in touch with us!

HERITAGE TRUST & ARTFORUM  
Cordially invites you to

*Lucknow in Letters*  
Endeavours, Achievements, and Tragedies




**Ruins of the Residency, Lucknow - 1863**  
by Charles Shepherd and Arthur Robertson  
Source: National Galleries Scotland

An illustrated performance by **Saman Habib** and **Sanjay Muttoo**  
Friday, April 14, 2023, Begins at 6.00 PM sharp,  
High Tea from 5.30 pm Onwards

Lucknow in Letters is a multilingual (English/Urdu/Hindi) reading of personal letters written to/from Lucknow that provides glimpses of the lived experiences of the city since the 'Ghadar' of 1857 to present times.

Venue : LVP Banquets,  
Palace Campus, Vadodara.

Scan the QR to Register :



Email : heritagetrustvadodara@gmail.com

### 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:

**Lucknow in Letters - Friday, April 14, 2023,**  
Begins at **6.00 PM** sharp,  
Venue: LVP Banquets,  
Palace Campus, Vadodara.