



Ahmedabad
University

Centre for Heritage Management

NEWSLETTER

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Students and faculty during a heritage walk of the Walled City

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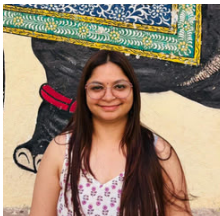
THE CENTRE WELCOMED THE CLASS OF 2028



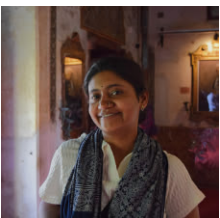
Class of 2028

The Centre welcomed the class of 2028 with a series of engaging activities. The students had the opportunity to interact with the Centre's faculty and alumni, who shared their experiences and participated in various icebreaker activities. They also toured the Ahmedabad University campus, gaining insight into the university's extracurricular offerings. These students come from various states across India and bring diverse academic experiences, enhancing the Centre's interdisciplinary educational environment.

PRACTICUM - CLASS OF 2027



Advaita Verma worked as a Curatorial Intern at the Udaipur City Palace Museum, a major Indian heritage institution. During her practicum, she developed interactive educational workshops to connect visitors with Mewar's history. She also designed interpretive and promotional materials for enhancing public outreach, gaining hands-on experience in curatorial practice, audience engagement, and museum management.



Devestha Pujari worked as an Outreach and Education Intern at the Lalbhai Dalpatbhai Museum. During her practicum, she designed exhibition panels, mapped the museum campus, and managed social media content. She also curated tailored tours, including an architectural walk for the French Ambassador to India and his delegation alongside the Museum Director.



Dhanya Vishwanath worked as a Content Intern at MeMeraki and a Research Intern at IIMSFIE, gaining hands-on exposure to heritage and cultural preservation. At MeMeraki, she documented traditional art forms by writing blogs and exhibition descriptions on their history, motifs, and artisan processes. At IIMSFIE, she contributed to a position paper analyzing human interactions with Meghalaya's Living Root Bridges, supported webpage development, and coordinated events with native heritage entrepreneurs.

Centre's Highlights



Divya Rajesh worked as an Imaging Lab Intern at the Deccan Heritage Foundation on the Jayalakshmi Vilas Mansion project in Mysore. During her practicum, she documented and digitised folklore museum objects, handling photography, post-processing, and architectural documentation. She collaborated with the Art Conservation and Collections teams and gained practical exposure to heritage preservation, collection management, and digital documentation.



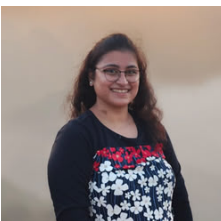
Khyati Srivastava worked as a Research Intern at the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), contributing to the Yamuna Documentation Project. During her practicum, she conducted secondary research on the Yamuna basin's cultural, historical, and heritage significance, analysing academic texts, archival records, and government reports. She compiled findings on pilgrimage traditions, water practices, and local settlements, supporting the documentation of both tangible and intangible cultural heritage.



Radha Devpura worked as a Design Intern at Khamir on the Revitalizing Kutch Pottery project. During her practicum, she collaborated with pottery artisans to develop contemporary lifestyle products and packaging using traditional terracotta craft. She also supported Sugri Shala, Khamir's educational initiative, and helped organize Killol, a seven-day experiential learning program that introduced primary school students to local craft, culture, and community knowledge.



Rajvi Roy worked as an Archive Intern with the Archives Department of HCP Design, Planning and Management Pvt. Ltd., Ahmedabad. During her practicum, she digitised, documented, and preserved architectural drawings, photographs, publications, and archival materials spanning over six decades of practice. She also managed data within the organisation's Content Management System and led visitor engagement activities, introducing guests to the archive and its collections.

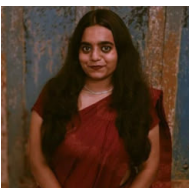


Nirja Shah worked as a Social Media Intern at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS), Mumbai. During her practicum, she researched museum collections, focusing on miniature paintings and the Networks of the Past gallery to create accessible public content. She handled copywriting, content planning, and team coordination, bridging classroom learning in heritage management with practical audience engagement and digital communication.

Centre's Highlights



Joann Reha Paul interned at the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) Bangalore across curation, exhibition planning, and library management. During her practicum, she researched artwork, developed thematic concepts, and led guided tours for visitors. She also helped coordinate public programmes such as talks, performances, and participatory events and organised archival materials to improve accessibility for future research.



Saujanya Satyanarayan worked with Heritage Beku and Heritage Parampara in Bengaluru, focusing on cultural preservation and public engagement. At Heritage Beku, she managed social media, hosted the weekly Cubbon Bandstand cultural events, and facilitated heritage talks. At Heritage Parampara, she developed digital content from Sanskrit texts, prepared masterclass transcripts, and contributed to flagship events like Gudiyasambrama and Shrishti Sambramah, gaining direct exposure to intangible heritage and Indian Knowledge Systems.



Saumya Babla worked as a Gallery Intern at Chemould Prescott Road, one of India's pioneering contemporary art galleries. During her internship, she engaged with operational and curatorial workflows, handled archival and inventory management, exhibition coordination, research, documentation, photography, and content creation. This hands-on experience gave her direct insight into gallery practices and the ways contemporary spaces preserve and interpret cultural heritage.

EXPERT TALKS AND MASTERCLASSES

SACRED HISTORIES AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPES OF BANARAS BY ABHIJIT DIXIT, DIRECTOR, IGNCAR REGIONAL CENTRE, VARANASI



Abhijit Dixit delivering the talk

On 18th August 2026, the Centre hosted a masterclass with Abhijit Dixit, Regional Director, IGNCAR Regional Centre, Varanasi. His lecture focused on the history and enduring heritage of Banaras. The discussion navigated through the sacred geography, vibrant cultural ecosystems, and centuries-old traditions that define this timeless city. He shared stories and experiences of how Banaras sustains its unique civilisational fabric through a dynamic interplay of ritual, urban morphology, and intangible heritage. This engaging exchange offered students a deeper perspective on preserving historical urban landscapes.

Centre's Highlights

GETTING THE CITY BACK TO ITS PEOPLE: THE CASE OF AHMEDABAD BY PROFESSOR DEBASHISH NAYAK, FORMER DIRECTOR, CENTRE FOR HERITAGE MANAGEMENT



Professor Debashish Nayak delivering the talk

On 19th August 2026, the Centre hosted an engaging session with Professor Debashish Nayak exploring Ahmedabad's remarkable journey to becoming India's first UNESCO World Heritage City. The discussion revolved around the city's layered architectural marvels and the vibrant cultural tapestry that sustains its historic urban core. He also highlighted community-driven initiatives to engage and safeguard the city's heritage spaces.

CONSERVATION, CONTINUITY, AND THE SHIP OF THESEUS" BY DR. SAMIDHA PUSALKAR

On 26th August 2026, the Centre hosted an expert talk by Dr. Samidha Pusalkar exploring a fundamental question in heritage conservation: what exactly are we trying to conserve, and what allows something to remain itself despite change? Moving beyond a material-centric approach, the discussion examined conceptual authenticity, processes, relationships, lineage, and methods and techniques. She brought in examples such as Shinto shrines in Japan, the Jagannath Temple and the Somnath reconstruction to discuss different approaches to continuity, including reassembly, cyclical renewal and reconstruction. The idea of jirnoddhar renewal with continuity further challenged conventional notions of repair. Using the Ship of Theseus as a philosophical lens, the session questioned how conservation can accommodate living heritage, adaptive reuse and meaningful change.



Dr. Samidha Pusalkar delivering the talk

Centre's Highlights

FIELD - VISIT TO MATA BHAVANI NI VAV



Students at Mata Bhavani ni Vav

As part of the HRT 511 Heritage Discourse and Frameworks class, the students had critical discussions around heritage, its ownership, the role of communities, and the responsibilities of authorities that moved beyond the classroom and reflected on the visit to Mata Bhavani ni Vav, where tangible heritage was examined alongside intangible aspects to understand how they come together to shape living heritage.

INVITED LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS, AND PUBLISHED PAPERS

Professor Aditya Prakash Kanth

Professor Aditya Kanth presented a research paper titled "Reconstructing Early Harappan Copper Smelting Practices through Slag Analysis from Kunal, India" at the 45th International Symposium on Archaeometry, held at the University of Turin, Italy, from 18 to 22 May 2026. The paper presented an archaeometallurgical investigation of copper-production slags recovered from excavations at Kunal, an Early Harappan site in northern India. The study aimed to reconstruct the technological processes and smelting practices employed by early copper producers and to assess their metallurgical knowledge and technological capabilities.



Professor Aditya Prakash Kanth presenting the paper

Professor Shahshank Asthwathnarayan

The project, "Sounding the Void: Modeling the Lost Space, Music, and Acoustics of the Afro-Eurasian Church of Gorgora Nova in the Christian Kingdom of 17th Century Ethiopia " has received the Emergent Ventures Africa grant from the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. The PI of the project is Dr. Janie Cole from the University of Connecticut. Dr. Shashank Aswathanarayana of Ahmedabad University and Dr. Braxton Boren of American University are the Co-PIs.

Upcoming Events

EXPERT TALKS AND WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP

DIGITAL HERITAGE

LIVING DOCUMENTATION TO IMMERSIVE ENTERPRISE

Heritage is no longer just about preserving old buildings. It is a vibrant, interdisciplinary field that combines history, architecture, museology, and environmental conservation with modern technology and business strategy. This Workshop is designed to help you navigate this changing landscape, showing how 'Digital Heritage'—the use of technology to record, study, and share our cultural past—can turn historical sites into sustainable, thriving ventures.

The MMS in Heritage Management emphasises a multi-disciplinary understanding of heritage (tangible, intangible, cultural, natural, historic, and living) and a holistic, management-oriented approach aligned with UNESCO's Competency Framework for Cultural Heritage Management. XRs work on digital twins, XR storytelling, and community-driven documentation (e.g., Batekhari case, Gandhinagar alignment) provides a replicable methodology that combines technical capture, metadata-rich archives, and participatory processes. This alignment deepens programme competencies through applied methodology.

4-6 SEPTEMBER 2026

September 4: Day 9: 4:30 - 6:30 PM
September 5: Day 2: 10:30 AM - 5:00 PM
September 6: Day 3: 10:30 AM - 5:00 PM

SPEAKERS

Aishwarya Murali
Founder, XB Design & Motion Studio

Prakhar Tripathi
Co-Founder, XB Design & Motion Studio

Venue: 008, AMSOM Heritage Building, Ahmedabad University, Central Campus

REGISTER

+91 99989 31850
jayesh.bhatt@ahduni.edu.in

EXPERT TALK

LEARNING TOGETHER AT JAWAJA: UNDERSTANDING PROGRESS AS WELLBEING

Ashoke Chatterjee
Advisor - Centre of Heritage Management, Ahmedabad University

Professor Chatterjee has a background in the engineering industry, international civil service (Asia Tourism Development Corporation), and 25 years in the service of the National Institute of Design (Ahmedabad) where he was Executive Director, Senior Faculty, Distinguished Fellow and Professor of communication and management. He was also President of the Crafts Council of India for over twenty years and continues to serve ICDI at Ahmedabad University. He is a Fellow to the Centre of Heritage Management and serves as a Senior Advisor to Heritage Management. An author and speaker, his books include 'Rocks of the Jordan Hill' on the art of Sharda Bag 'Rising' on empowerment efforts among deprived communities in rural Gujarat and 'Learning Together at Jawaja'.

Jawaja: This talk turns a spotlight on a community in a degraded region of Rajasthan, and on their effort to understand development not just as statistics but as human wellbeing. Some fifty years ago, their innovative blended traditional wisdom with contemporary knowledge in an attempt to reveal what new disciplines of management and design might contribute to the quality of life of those outside corporate and urban reach, Jawaja emerged as a testament to how traditional wisdom and new knowledge can serve as an impetus for self-reliance, justice, and better change, and as a powerful example of the design process for transforming skills and crafts to serve new markets. The lecture will trace this journey, the transformations it has brought about for those who participated, as well as the challenges that remain for other generations.

16 SEPTEMBER 2026
4:30 PM (IST)

Room 008, AMSOM Heritage Building, Ahmedabad University

REGISTER

This expert talk is organised by the Centre for Heritage Management at Ahmedabad University.

+91 99989 31850 | jayesh.bhatt@ahduni.edu.in

7TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HERITAGE MANAGEMENT EDUCATION AND PRACTICE

Ahmedabad University | Centre for Heritage Management

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF RANGELANDS AND PASTORALISTS 2026

GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR RANGELANDS & PASTORALISTS

7th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

HERITAGE MANAGEMENT, EDUCATION AND PRACTICE

PASTORALISM AT THE CROSSROADS OF CLIMATE, CULTURE AND POLICY

12 - 14 March 2027

Ahmedabad University Central Campus

heritage.conference@ahduni.edu.in | www.ahduni.edu.in

Registration is now open for the upcoming international conference on 12 - 14 March 2027 at Ahmedabad University, Ahmedabad.

Registration for the conference can be done from the centre's website.

Journal of Heritage Management: Centre's Flagship Publication

The Journal of Heritage Management is a peer-reviewed biannual (June and December) International Journal of the Ahmedabad University.

In collaboration with the Sage Publications, the journal publishes high-quality research papers, commentaries and book reviews on themes of heritage management.

Visit the Sage Publications website to submit your paper online.

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Editorial

Ashoke Chatterjee, Editor

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CENTRE FOR
HERITAGE MANAGEMENT



Research Articles

From Inscription to Implementation: Practical Approaches to Heritage Valorization in the Maghreb

Bilel Chebbi

Morphology and Social Dynamics in Heritage Management: Darley Abbey Mills UNESCO World Heritage Site

Emmie Deakin, Richard Tresidder, Nicola Palmer

The Morphology of Use in Interior Spaces as a Factor in Understanding Heritage Significance

Romulo Alcober Suyom, Jr

Cultural Landscapes and Museums: Linkage for Preserving Indigenous Culture and Community Engagement in North-east India

Amit Soni, Pankaj Protim Bordoloi

Between Home and Enterprise: Work-Life Balance of Women Tourism Entrepreneurs in Jammu and Kashmir

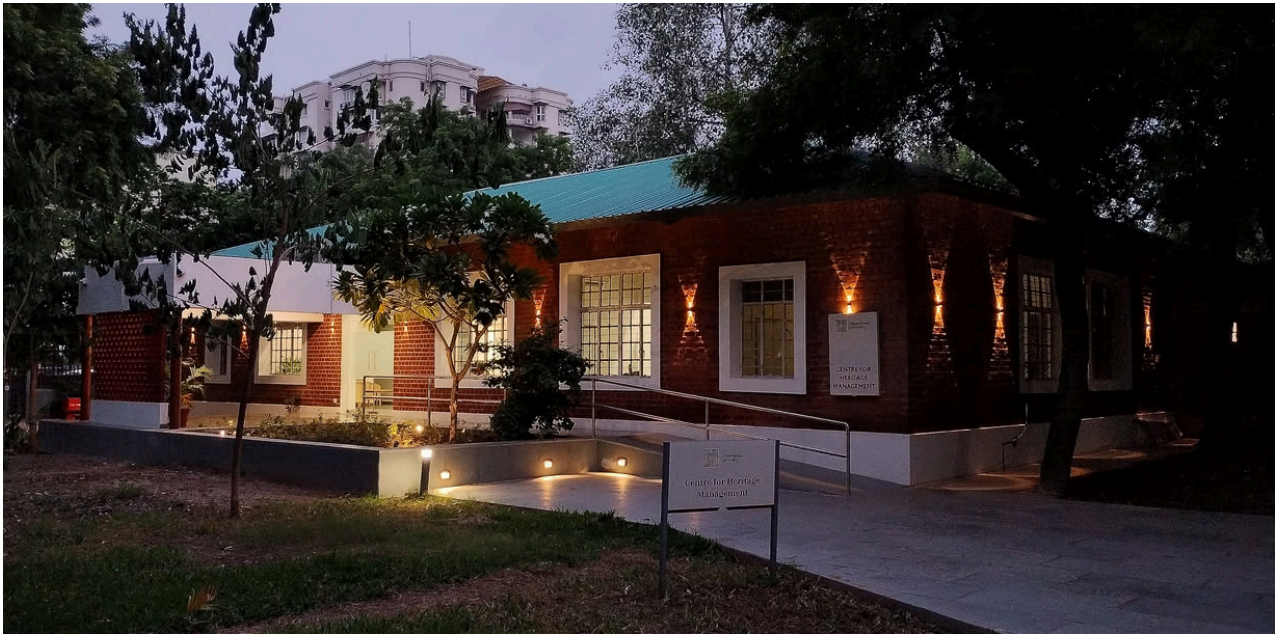
Gregorius Ajaz Ahmad Dar, Faisal Faheem Khan, Junaid Amin Parrey

Management and Conservation of Heritage Buildings Through Information Systems and Quality Management to Face Incoming Environmental Risks Related to Hygrothermal Actions in the Building Envelope

José Miranda Dias

ADMISSIONS OPEN

MASTERS IN HERITAGE MANAGEMENT



The Centre for Heritage Management aims to foster critical discourses on the broader domain of heritage, and to promote a holistic heritage management approach as a guidance for sustainable and just social development. It offers an intensive 2-year Master's Degree in Management Studies - Heritage Management for which the applications for admission are now open.

To know more about the programme, visit our website.

Scan the QR Code to download the admissions brochure and apply for the programme.

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Centre for Heritage Management
Ahmedabad University, Central Campus
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad 380009, Gujarat, India
info.chm@ahduni.edu.in | +91.79.61911552



Newsletter compiled by: Advaitaa Verma | Khyati Srivastava | Saujanya Satyanarayan | Rajvi Roy |
Professor Molly Kaushal

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