



The Society used to publish News Bulletins till recently containing information/news on heritage, articles of related interest by experts and reports of its various activities. It now migrates to bi-monthly E-Bulletins with the same purpose in mind.

1. The Calcutta Heritage Collective (CHC), a platform of individuals keen on conserving the city's heritage, proposed to conduct four walks and a river cruise between 18 and 25 November 2019 to celebrate **Heritage Week**. A walk with Shahensha Mirza, the great-great grandson of Wajid Ali Shah (1822-87), the last Nawab of Awadh (Oudh), would attempt to rediscover the legacy of a bygone era when the Nawab, who arrived in Calcutta in 1856 after being deposed, had tried to set up a 'Chhota Lucknow' in Garden Reach, which includes Metiabruz, with his annual grant of Rupees twelve lakh received from the British. Next, heritage enthusiast Pradeep Chopra would lead a 'Mercantile Walk' down the twists and turns of Burrabazaar in order to trace the roots and spread of Marwari enterprise, a notable chapter in the development of Indian business. Historian Anthony Khatchaturian would lead The East India Company (EIC) Walk around Dalhousie Square/BBD Bag where the architecture and buildings of the Raj stand as mute testimony to a past when the city was built on the lines of London while the EIC took control of the country's economy and reduced its volume from 23 per cent of global GDP to 3 per cent; the Walk would cover sites such as St John's Church, Raj Bhavan and Writers' Buildings. Another heritage enthusiast Navpreet Arora would undertake a walk to try and capture the Romance of Cornwallis Street/Bidhan Sarani which would take one back to the nineteenth century and after when its lanes and alleys were the hotbed for nationalist politics and the centre for a cultural, social and literary renaissance. The week was to end with a sunset cruise down the Hooghly to look at the ghats, jute mills and bungalows of the sahibs and the settlements that were once trading hubs. The objective of CHC was to restore and reuse our built heritage by spreading awareness about the importance of preserving the edifices of the past so that our children could better appreciate the deeds of their antecedents and truly become heirs and guardians of that legacy. [*The Times of India (TOI), Kolkata, 21 November 2019*]

2. A veritable treasure trove of historic documents and articles, some nearly 200 years old, was discovered in November 2019 from two iron chests, one of them wall-mounted, at Sanskrit University (upgraded from the status of a College in February 2016). The chests are estimated to have been purchased between 1830 and 1851, one of them manufactured by Chubb, London, and the other made in India. The discoveries include Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar's sandals, pen and shawl, used by him when he was the Principal of Sanskrit College, an attendance register with his name on the rolls (number 261/1) as a student going back to 1830, a register bearing Tagore's signature referring to his being conferred the title of '**Kabisharbobhouma**' through a certificate dated 1931, a certificate awarded to revolutionary and author Manmatha Gupta (1908-2000), sealed envelopes containing lists of College assets (till 1956), 85 passbooks and deposit receipts relating to post offices, and papers relating to the Muktakeshi Devi Widow Fund, probably started by Vidyasagar, which granted Rs 2 monthly to eight widows across Bengal. Sanskrit University plans to set up an archive where these artefacts would be put on display for the public and be studied by research scholars. [*TOI, 30 November 2019*]
