

OFFICE

- A massive job of going through 1000's of CDs and DVDs which have piled up over the years has been going on – getting rid of copies and putting them in order. Most of this is now done.
- We have unfortunately had a disaster – our 500 GB Hard Drive decided to call it a day – this contained all our Photos and Videos since 2002!! There is a possibility of recovering it and hopefully we should then be able to have all this info on a more reliable Hard Drive as also back up on DVD data.
- We have upgraded all the computers – more Ram more space, virus protection etc We are now trying to get three laptops (donated over the years) to go through the same process.

COUNTRY TRIPS AND MISC

- Gulabo – probably the most famous of our artists from Rajasthan and traditionally from the Kalbelia (Snake charmers etc) community had the wedding of her two sons on the same day to two daughters from her community. Gulabo has had major CD releases locally and internationally with her collaboration with “Titi” Thierry Robin from France. She had a fairly typical middle class extravaganza at her farm house 10km from Jaipur. On behalf of JVF – Divya, John, Vinod and Naveen attended and gave a traditional token to the married couple.
- William Dalrymple is preparing a book of short stories, which he gave us to read and one of the chapters is on the late Mohan Bhopa who had been associated with JVF from the beginning. Mohan had been presented with a Phad painting some years ago and had travelled to the US and Canada some years ago and had recently been with William on Seminars etc. William had him for the last Jaipur Literature Festival. We look forward to the book being released.
- A team of four members, lead by Prof. Samdani, Meera Samaroh Samiti - Chittorgarh (a society that concentrates on the works of the Rajasthani Princess Saint Mira Bai) came to JVF to meet Shri John Singh Founder Trustee of JVF. They are keen to know more about JVF activities and wanted to explain the possibility how can they work together in the field of performing folk arts in their Region. They have held Festivals on the sayings of Mira Bai for two decades.



- JVF invited Meheruddin Langa (the person played with Hari Prasad Chaurasia at the Jodhpur Festival) to explain the finer points of the Langa community to us. It was a day long interview – properly recorded on video and audio and was very enlightening. He explained the two totally different Langa communities who have little to do with each

other – there are no marriages between them and in fact they operate at arms length from each other. JVF is very keen to have a get together of communities to bond with each

other and have at least one day in the year when the community gets together – we feel this is vital for the community – Meheruddin as have other artists shown that this is a truly good idea since the community has no reason at the present to be in one place and interact with each other,

HERITAGE MAP OF JAIPUR

The first of its kind in India, a detailed map to guide walkers in the Walled City of Jaipur is being prepared as a JVF project supported by our friends in France, Maggy King and Les Amis de Jaipur.

Eicher will be publishing and printing the Map/Book on a no profit no loss basis, in support for the spirit unpinning the project. Thanks Vikram! - Thanks Eicher!

Aurore now has to complete the technical work by placing all the info on the correct digital base.

We expect this work to be complete by end June and I understand she will have the support of Professor Gadad and the University of Versailles in this – Thank you Professor Gadad

Eicher will only start work on the project once they receive all the final digital material Faith and her team have opened a dialogue to make this publication part of the Government of Rajasthan heritage initiative. It provides an opportunity to promote the ethos of heritage conservation and appropriate management – and if the government adopts the guide, then this will strengthen the print order and its distribution. It can reinforce their conservation initiative, is a feather in the cap for public private cooperation, and be formally released in India, France and elsewhere, with due ceremony and publicity. Many thanks to Maggy, to Les Amis de Jaipur, to Eicher and the University of Versailles - and to JVF trustees and indeed all JVF and Virasat supporters - and many congratulations to us all!

INTERACTION WITH THE GOVT

A decision by the current Principal Secretary Urban Governance was finalized to integrate international standard heritage management sensitivity into the new Jaipur Master Plan for which the Draft is targeted to be complete by end June. We understand this will be a First for India! Support and initiatives such as this Map are all part of building a climate in which such a decision can take place.

VIKAS & VIRASAT (Development & Heritage)

Revive Rajasthan art, culture: CM

HT Correspondent

CHIEF MINISTER Ashok Gehlot has stressed upon the need to uplift the art and culture of Rajasthan.

Extending his support to do everything possible in this direction, Gehlot added

the steps would only promote Rajasthan culture in a strong and positive way.

Gehlot was speaking at the inaugural function of the exhibition of sculptures by Lokesh Punia at the Jawahar Kala Kendra (JKK).

He said that influx of outside traditions should be checked and instead, traditional, art and culture of Rajasthan living should be strengthened.

The Chief Minister also took a round and was impressed by the array.

Applauding the 15-year-old Punia, Gehlot said, "His work is incomparable and awe-inspiring." Commending his mother for her constant support, he said, "Mothers are the key to a child's success. I salute such a mother."

Outside traditions must be checked and traditional art and cultural of Rajasthan should be strengthened.

ASHOK GEHLOT
Chief Minister,
Rajasthan

During the exhibition, the artist displayed work on statues with terraotta, fibreglass and gun metal, apart from 20 other paintings.

To a query on probing the steps for upliftment of artists, litterateurs and journalists, the Chief Minister said that a fund support system had been set up in this regard.

The Chief Minister said, "Work towards this has already begun. In the process, help from the state government will be assured."

Faith and Divya and others have been working extremely hard to get the concept of Vikas & Virasat adopted by the Govt of Rajasthan for some time now, Faith has met and lobbied with many senior Govt officials who may have some role to play in this and it all looks very positive as of now.

Vikas & Virasat offers a progressive strategy to promote heritage-based regional and urban development (VIKAS) in Rajasthan, a predominantly dry and sometimes desert state, while conserving the tangible and intangible heritage and the historic environment (VIRASAT) of Rajasthan.

The program comprises seven component programs. Programs 1 – 3 concern themselves with the historic physical environment. They provide a regulatory framework for development in the state, to ensure conservation of the historic resources; a series of restoration, regeneration, and management acupuncture projects in six characteristic fort-cities and eight distinctive

cultural regions; and capacity build in heritage-based, modern management methodologies.

Program 4 engages the people in heritage based development by enabling traditional knowledge, arts and crafts to become revenue generating assets for a modern, creative economy by catalyzing new livelihood opportunities. Program 4 empowers four target groups of citizens of Rajasthan – traditional performing artists and folk musicians; crafts people; traditional language groups, authors and poets; and school children, to become aware of their local heritage. The program comprises projects to increase awareness of the diversity of Rajasthan's heritage assets, to foster pride in regional identity, and capacity building projects that reposition the heritage assets so they are relevant to the modern world.

Program 5 comprises two internationally marketed and conceptualized creative heritage festivals, planned to make links between local and global, traditional Rajasthan and modern Rajasthan, between Rajasthan, India, and the world at large. The festivals provide showcases for the year-round program activities, provide a platform for international, national and local cooperation across all sectors, and market Rajasthan worldwide.

Program 6 engages the cultural tourism industry and the world of creative commerce – the many businesses benefitting from Rajasthan's rich cultural traditions - in responsible practices and responsible pro-poor tourism. As the proverb says, the program is designed "to look after the goose that lays the golden eggs" – in this case the goose being Rajasthan's irreplaceable heritage assets and the arts, crafts and knowledge of its traditional peoples!

Program 7 is application of an adaptive management strategy to ensure the program as a whole delivers its objectives. It monitors, records and evaluates the six program components from a SWOT perspective, and recommends adjustments as required.

Due to its inter-sector, holistic nature, the program proposes its own progressive mechanism for optimum delivery. The mechanism engages the diverse stakeholder groups, outsources the best professional and technical resource people in service of the state, vests authority with a PPP mechanism to ensure continuity across changes of government and administration, and promotes transparency and participation at all levels. It provides a dignified and equal space to members of society who are less privileged. It links Rajasthan to like-minded development thinking and funding provisions in other parts of the world. Vikas & Virasat is envisaged as a five-year program, with a mid-term review, and annual reports provided to the Council by the monitoring body (program 7), offering recommendations for program adjustments as required.

CAIRNS MEETING

We have been trying for a while to get Cairns (the oil company from Scotland - who discovered oil in western Rajasthan) to work with us in some way and to sponsor some of our activities. Their response seemed positive – but – we will have to wait to see just what they might be interested in supporting.



REGIONAL COORDINATORS MEETING

: Divya and Vinod had invited JVF coordinators from different cultural zones of Rajasthan to discuss plans for the coming years. The plan is within the context of Vikas and Virasat, to support these

regional coordinators (some have worked with us for 5 years or so) with operational infrastructure and an honorarium, an assistant, mobile connectivity, paperwork, tea, travel etc. The meeting was to better understand what they would need financially and in human resources to enable them to coordinate and deliver:

- One Village Cultural Festival in their region
- One City/Town Festival in their region,
- One Poetry Festival
- Support the Built Heritage program
- Support the rural tourism projects
- Support the Crafts projects

The day long meet went off extremely well – lot of enthusiasm from everyone, this is of course all ground breaking and they will be putting in their suggestions and recommendation in the coming two weeks



Earthsync Festival – Chennai



Several folk artists from Rajasthan took part in the Earthsync Festival at Chennai – Shye Ben Tzur with his group took some Qawaals from Ajmer and 5 folk artists from Jodhpur/Barmer side. It was a packed house and the performance many claim was about the best that they have seen in years. Earthsync has been working with folk musicians primarily from South India and giving them an opportunity to perform with musicians from other parts of the world- although just 4-5 years old this organisation has been able to

project their artists in an extremely sophisticated manner and in places that matter globally. They are now well known on the International world music circuit. Maybe there would be a way to work together with them. John represented JVF at this Festival.

