

Report on

Monument Matters:

A Field Workshop on Art and Architectural Heritage of Sivasagar and Charaideo in Assam

Organised by Department of Archaeology, Cotton University and INTACH, Kamrup Chapter

Date: 12th and 13th March 2023

Sivasagar and Charaideo are historic districts in the state of Assam having both secular and religious structures and sites of art, architectural and archaeological significance. The “Moidams – the Mound-Burial system of the Ahom Dynasty” located in Charaideo are on the tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage site. Recently, a dossier has again been sent for inscribing on the final World Heritage List. Considering the rich art and architectural heritage in the area, the Department of Archaeology of Cotton University and INTACH, Kamrup Chapter has organised a Field Workshop for the students during 12th and 13th March 2023, under the guidance of Dr. Ritika Sahu, Assistant Professor of the Department of Archaeology and Life Member of INTACH. The aim of the workshop was to acquaint the students with the tangible structures, art and architectural details and the cultural landscape. As it was the seat of capital of the Ahom dynasty and also one of the major centres of early colonial settlements, a number of structures in the form of temples, stone bridge, palaces, ramparts, fortifications, moats, colonial period bungalows, church, and bridges are present. On the 12th, the team visited the excavations at Charaideo being undertaken by the Directorate of Archaeology, Govt. of Assam. The students were exposed to systematic archaeological excavations, recording of material culture and archaeological photography. On the next day, the team visited the Joysagar Pukhuri, which is one of the largest man-made tanks of the area; Visnu temple; Shiva temple and the Durga temple surrounding the tank. Visits were also made to Ghanasyam’s palace, museum at Sibsagar College, Uttaran Museum, Fakua temple, Hara Gauri temple, Ranga nath temple, Talatal Ghar, Gargaon palace, Rang Ghar, and the Iron bridge built by the British.



