

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2023

# INSIGHT

A BNCA NEWSLETTER

**BNCA**  
MAHARSHI KARVE STREET SHIKSHAN SAMSTHA'S  
DR. BHANUBEN NANAVATI  
COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE  
FOR WOMEN  
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BNCA Pune



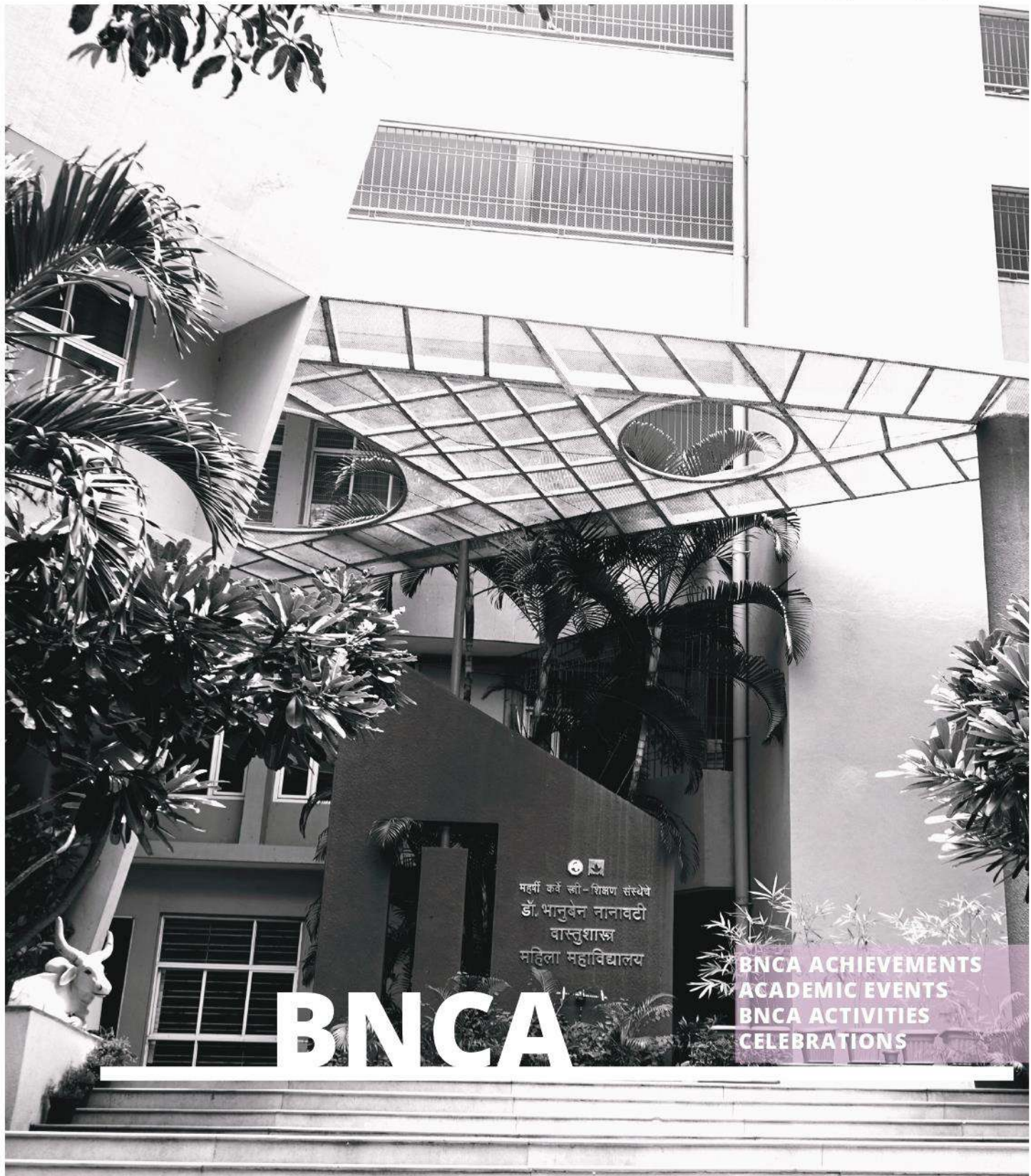
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### Prof. Namrata Dhamankar gets 'IGBC Fellow Award'



Prof. Namrata Dhamankar

BNCA M. Arch Environmental Architecture faculty Prof. Namrata Dhamankar was honored by IGBC with the prestigious "IGBC Fellow Award" in a function on 24 Nov 2023.

### Prof. Kanhere honored by The Asiatic society of India



Prof. Kanhere with the Silver Medal

The Asiatic society of India conferred upon Prof. Kanhere, the Society's Silver Medal for the period 2019-2021 for his book "Living With Art : An Indian Tradition With Architecture And Bronzes-14th-20th Century." The medal was awarded to him on the Society's 219th Foundation Day on Saturday, 25th November 2023, at 11.00 a.m. in the Durbar Hall of the Society.

### BNCA-MKSSS's ISDS, at the Global Summit on LiFE Economy at New Delhi

Prof. Asmita Joshi had an opportunity to present on behalf of

BNCA and MKSSS's ISDS, at the Global Summit on LiFE Economy at New Delhi held from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 2023. Her presentation was at the state of the Art auditorium at Vigyan Bhavan, where she had the chance to hear Hon. Minister Smriti Irani's speech in person.



Prof. Asmita speaking at the Vigyan Bhavan

### Student Achievements

BNCA undergraduate student Tanaya Takale of 4<sup>th</sup> year B. Arch has been selected for Inter University level of Avishkar 2023 competition organized by SPPU for research and innovation in the Engineering and technology category. She is guided by Dr. Vaishali Anagal.

PhD student of BNCA Research Center Ar. Shivali Lalbige was selected for the same in Humanities category. She is guided by Dr. Swati Sahasrabudhe.

Four students from M.Arch Landscape Architecture with two students from Masters department of Environmental Architecture and five students from B. Arch have been shortlisted for PCERF thesis competition for 2023.

Awanti Barmade, Rajnandini Kolte, Anushka Sudhir, Pranita Sawant, Mayuri Chittewan and Srushti from M.Arch have been shortlisted.

BNCA B.Arch Student and topper Janhavi Rajwade secured the Sakal Scholarship which is an interest free loan scholarship to travel abroad for masters. She has successfully started her master's at University of Pennsylvania in Landscape Architecture with a Upen Teaching Assistantship.

Thesis student of BNCA M. Arch landscape Architecture, Rajnandini Kolte of the batch 2021\_2023, won an international Award and a bronze medal awarded by the prestigious international platform SILA-2023, Singapore Institute Of Landscape Architects for her final semester thesis project at M.Arch LA , this year.

Aakanksha Dhumal of 4th year B. Arch received 3rd Prize in the Poster Making Competition- TOPOPHILIA organized by ISOLA Maharashtra Chapter.

### Research News

PhD Pre-Submission Seminar of candidate Sudhir Deshpande pursuing doctoral programme in BNCA Research Center took place on 28th November 2023 from 02:00 PM – 03.30 PM at the Conference Hall, Room no 108, First Floor, BNCA.

The title of his thesis is 'Investigating Cost Effectiveness Of Architectural Design And Construction Features In Affordable Housing: Case Pune'



## BNCA National Conference "Built Environment and Beyond 2.0 : Theory, Practice and Pedagogy"

The built environment today is not limited to just individual buildings but also encapsulates the surroundings, urban patterns and morphology, social and political circuits, services and innovations in technology.

The conference invited papers from academicians, professionals, students and research scholars and encouraged them to explore this multifaceted nature of the built environment under various tracks such as Architecture and Planning, Landscape and Ecology, Art and Humanities, Environment, Culture and Heritage Conservation, Emerging Technology and Services. The conference was held on 2nd and 3rd November 2023 through online mode and saw a participation of around 200 plus students and professionals from various colleges and States.

Over 120 registrations and 98 abstracts were received, out of which 45 full papers were submitted by the authors on the above mentioned themes. The papers were carefully reviewed through a double blind review process, before they were presented in the conference.

Day 01 started at 9.30 with an introduction to the National Conference and themes by Prof. Siddhi Joshi. This was followed by the address by Vice Principal Dr. Sharvey Dhongde.

Then the conference convenor

Dr. Avanti Bambawale addressed the audience followed by Dr. Swati Sahasrabudhe, the head of BNCA Research Hub and Dr. Meera Shirolkar, head of BNCA PhD Center. This was followed by the keynote speech by Shri. Hitesh Vaidya, Director of National Institute of Urban Affairs.

After this, the online session split into two break out sessions on Architecture and Planning chaired by Dr. Vaishali Anagal and Dr. Mamata Raj and by Dr. Dhruv and Dr. Sudnya Mahimkar. The post lunch break out sessions were on Architecture and Planning chaired by Dr. Aarti Verma and Dr. Atul Singhla and on Art and Humanities chaired by Dr. Sharvey Dhongde and Dr. Ujjwala Palsuley.

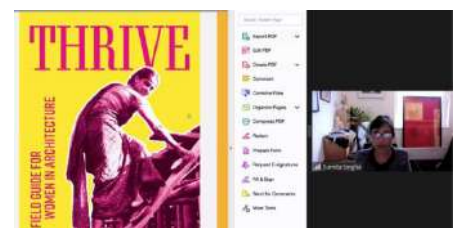
The next breakout sessions commenced from 3pm. The track was Aspects of built environment and allied disciplines chaired by Dr. Vaishali Latkar and Dr. Rutuja Deshmukh in the first breakout room and Dr. Shubhada and Ar. Sathya Prakash Varanasi in the second break out room. Thus day 01 ended at 4.45pm as per schedule.

Day 2 started with an introduction to the themes and session details by Prof. Siddhi Joshi. The first track on Culture and Heritage was chaired by Dr. Parag Narkhede and Dr. Shubhangi Shirole. Post lunch breakout sessions on Built environment and landscape were chaired by Dr. Swati Sahasrabudhe and Dr. Shishir Raval, while the track Built Environment and Ecology was chaired by Dr. Sujata Karve and Ar. Vinit Mirkar. These sessions concluded at 3pm.

After a short break, the conference concluding session was addressed by Dr. Sumita Singha and later by Dr. Sharvey Dhongde with an announcement of best papers across the tracks. Dr. Avanti Bambawale and Ar. Mandar Athawale proposed the vote of thanks.



Dr. Swati Sahasrabudhe in session



Dr. Sumita Singha in session

## MKSSS Career Guidance Expo 2023

MKSSS had organized MKSSS Career Guidance Expo 2023 on 4th and 5th November 2023. All Institutes functioning under MKSSS were a part of this expo. BNCA took the lead and invited Hon. Vice Chancellor of SPPU, Dr. Suresh Gosavi for the inaugural session scheduled at 10.00am on 4th Nov, Saturday, but he could not make it.



Day 01 of the Expo at BNCA stall



BNCA Team with Dr. Chakradeo on day 02

Several seminars on education opportunities were held in the BNCA Auditorium on 4<sup>th</sup> Nov.

BNCA faculty Prof. Dhanashree Sardeshpande spoke on Emerging Technologies and Architectural Career, while Dr. Vaishali Anagal of BNCA introduced the course for 'Industry readiness for Indian and UK construction industry through apprenticeship programs'.

Prof. Piyush Girgaonkar spoke about career opportunities at BNCA ISDS.

Dr. Ujwala Chakradeo, Vice Chancellor of SNDT World University addressed the audience on 5<sup>th</sup> November, Sunday, from 10.30 am to 12.00 pm, followed by a session by Dr. Dhananjay Kelkar, Medical Director of Deenanath Mangeshkar Hospital and Research Center.

Prof. Anupama Khatavkar, Prof. Neha Adkar and Prof. Sayali Naik of BNCA conducted hands on workshops for the participants who had registered in advance for the same. The Expo received a good response with a good number of enquiries for the courses.



Workshop by BNCA Faculty

## **Deepotsav Celebration at BNCA on 8<sup>th</sup> Nov 2023**

As a tradition of Maharshi Karve Stree Shikshan Samstha, Deepotsav was celebrated in BNCA between 6 and 7.30 pm. It was an occasion to exchange Diwali wishes and break for the festive season on a celebratory note.

All faculty and staff members were present for the occasion and joined the MKSSS and BNCA family to celebrate the festival of lights.



Faculty at Deepotsav in BNCA

## **DECEMBER 2023**

### **Student Namrata Khatri of BNCA wins the COA Award for Masters Thesis**



Namrata receiving the COA Excellence Award 2023 from  
COA President Ar. Abhay Purohit

Namrata Khatri, from Dr. Bhanuben Nanavati College of Architecture, achieved the COA Award for Excellence in Postgraduate Thesis in Architecture 2023. This recognition was secured at the National Final Jury held in New Delhi. The winning project, titled "Assessment of the Environmental Quality of an Urban Setting : A Case Study of Belagavi, Karnataka, India," earned her a cash prize of 1 lakh rupees. The National Jury of the COA Awards 2023 was held as part of the Student Biennale, 'Samunnati 2023' at Lalit Kala Academi, New Delhi.

Namrata completed her thesis under the guidance of Dr. Sujata Karve.

MKSSS's BNCA announced a Short-term Course in 'Music and Architecture' starting from 1st Jan 2024, that would be conducted by Dr. Sanjeevani Pendse.

### **BNCA Masters Department of Environmental Architecture gets a funding project**

Department of Environmental Architecture & Planning at BNCA has been awarded a funding project where the University of Leeds and BNCA are working collaboratively. Dr. Sumedha Basu and Dr. Frin Bale from the University of Leeds and BNCA team – Prof. Namrata Dhamankar along with Dr. Sujata Karve and Dr. Prajakta Dalal-Kulkarni will be working together on this project.

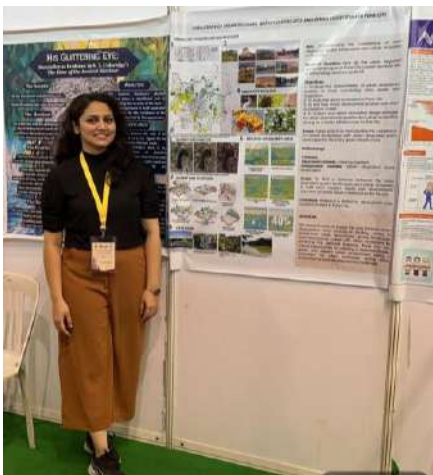


## BNCA Research News



Tanaya Takle with her panels

Two students from BNCA, Tanaya Takale from B. Arch guided by Prof. Vaishali Angal and Ar. Shivali Lalbige, a doctoral scholar of BNCA guided by Prof. Swati Sahasrabudhe, presented their research at the Interuniversity level Research and Innovation competition Avishkar 2023 and represented SPPU. The final results are awaited.



Shivali Lalbige with her panels

## Drone Literacy program by ISDS

Maharshi Karve Stree Shikshan Sanstha's (MKSSS) Institute of Sustainability & Development Studies (ISDS) recently awarded certificates to more than 236 participants who completed drone

training under their 'Drone Literacy' program. The certificates were handed over in a special program held at Dr. Bhanuben Nanavati College of Architecture for Women (BNCA). A two day program included sharing of experiences, exhibition and interaction with experts. Ravindra Deo, Chairman MKSSS, Vidya Kulkarni, Vice Chairman MKSSS, Dr. Anurag Kashyap, Principal BNCA, Gilles Fischer, program communicator Flying Labs at We Robotics, Sameer Dhamangaonkar, Head of Pune Division of CII Yi, Prof. Asmita Joshi, Executive Director of ISDS, Piyush Girgaonkar, Head of Sustainable Development Center at BNCA, Prof. Nidhi Dixit, DGCA Certified Drone Pilot, Prof. Namrata Dhamankar, Co-lead of the BOTNAR project and drone trainers Ar. Mohit Jadhav, Saurabh Sable, Abhijit Deshmukh, and Prof. Manorama Kariappa were present on the occasion.

## BNCA at Career Guidance program of Karnatak High School (KHS)



Dr. Shubhada with KHS teachers

BNCA participated in the Career guidance program of Karnatak High School that was held on 9<sup>th</sup> Dec 2023. Dr. Shubhada Kamalapurkar of BNCA was invited to speak on 'Architecture and Design'.

The BNCA stall was put up and efficiently managed by Amol Hinge, Swati Chandiwade, Ramesh Kandhare, Harshada Gadgil, Tejaswini Joshi and IT staff members Suhas Patil and Illiyas Bagwan.



Team BNCA at Karnatak High School

## Choice-based Design Studio Presentations by faculty



Choice based presentations

Studio presentations for Choice Based system for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Year students were held on 26<sup>th</sup> Dec 2023 from 8.30am to 11am. ADP Thesis Introduction Session for students and guides, conducted by Dr. Dhruv Chandwania was held after that from 11:00 am in the Auditorium.

Prof. Sourabh Marathe spoke regarding the schedule for Induction week for ADP students that would be held from 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan to 6<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024. Dr. Chetan Sahasrabudhe guided the students on how to select a topic for ADP (thesis), after which an orientation session for Guides was conducted by Dr. Sharvey Dhongde from 12:00noon to 1pm.

**BNCA National Tour 2023**

Students and teachers on national tour

The national tour began from Pune on Saturday, 16th December, reached Coimbatore and proceeded to Velliangiri Foothills, where they visited Adiyogi Statue, followed by the Shiva Parikrama. After this they proceeded to Madurai for an overnight stay.

On Sunday, 17th December, in Madurai they visited Thirumalai Nayakkar Palace and post lunch they visited the Meenakshi Temple and had the evening time free for shopping.

On Monday, 18th December they proceeded to Thanjavur, and enroute visited Athangudi, well known for Athangudi tiles. Later they stopped by at Kanadukathan town to see Chettinadi Mansions and proceeded to Srirangam to visit Sri Ranganatha Swamy Temple and then left for Thanjavur for overnight stay.

On Tuesday, 19th December they had visits to the places of Architectural interest including the Brihadeeswara Temple, a Shaivite Hindu temple built in the Chola



Students and teachers on national tour

architectural style, located on the south bank of the Cauvery river in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu. Post lunch, they visited Maratha Palace, surrounded by magnificent walls for fortification, that was built by the Nayaks around 1550 AD and later expanded on by the Marathas between 1676-1855. They saw the Sawatri Mahal Library and Royal Palace Museum.

On Wednesday, 20th December 2023, they reached Pondicherry and proceeded to Kumbakonam to visit the Dharasuram Temple, later paid a visit to Sri Jayam Industries which is well known for manufacturing Brass Natraj Statue which is recently installed outside Pragati Maidan in Delhi. Later they proceeded to Gangaikonda Cholapuram to visit Arulmigu Peruvudaiyar Temple and their next halt was at Natraj Temple at Chidambaram.

On the next day, after the visit to Aurobindo Ashram they took the INTACH Heritage walk at Pondicherry and some free time at the Pondicherry Promenade.

On Friday, 22nd December they proceeded to Auroville Visitor Center and Matrimandir view point and had lunch at Savitri Bhawan . Then they visited Sadhana Forest a Non-profit center dedicated to reforestation, water conservation & food management.

On the last day , Saturday, 23rd December, they proceeded to Gingee Fort, one of the largest surviving forts in Tamilnadu, historically considered most impregnable and called the 'Troy of the East' by the British. Then they

visited the Shore Temple at Mahabalipuram and the Pancha Rathas . Then they boarded the flight for Pune from Chennai Airport.

In all there were 39 students who took part in this eight day National tour that was accompanied by five faculty namely Dr. Sharvey Dhongde, Prof. Sourabh Marathe Prof. Nilima Dhamal, Prof. Siddhi Pawar and Prof. Yash Joshi.

**BNCA at Samunnati 2023, organized by COA and Ministry of Culture, GOI**

The Council of Architecture, COA had organized the India Art, Architecture and Design Student Biennale – 'Samunnati 2023' in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, which was held from 9th to 15th December, 2023 at Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi. It was inaugurated by Ms. Meenakshi Lekhi – Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture.

COA had appointed Prof. Mahesh Bangad and Prof. Surabhi Gadkari from BNCA as the as Organizing Core Committee Members for the



Inauguration ceremony of Samunnati





Team BNCA with COA President

Biennale. They were also the Co-Curators of the Exhibition and Master of Ceremony for all evenings, with Prof. Surabhi Gadkari hosting the awards ceremony for all categories. The Biennale saw the participation of more than 110 colleges with 500 delegates, 200 Professionals and more than 4000 visitors. 7 national and international speakers graced the Biennale.

4<sup>th</sup> year B. Arch students of BNCA, Sejal Tote, Rama Velankar, Janhvi Patil, Gautami Dakwale and Anvesha Mahale were the volunteers.

The Samunnati launch movie was composed by Sejal, Rama and Janhvi. Dr. Dhruv Chandwani from BNCA was the moderator for a Panel Discussion titled 'Converge and Diverge' and was the Workshop Tutor for 'Architectural Infographics and Wayfinding in the built Environment'. He was assisted by Prof. Siddhi Joshi from BNCA and Ar. Urvashi Vaijwade, BNCA alumna. Dr. Vaishali Latkar and Prof. Siddhi Joshi coordinated the COA Heritage documentation jury and awards.

Dr. Vaishali Latkar was the editor and



The Heritage Documentation team



Visit by Shri. G. Kishan Reddy

Prof. Siddhi Joshi was the sub-editor for COA Heritage Documentation Awards and COA TRC TTP books.

Prof. Deva Prasad was the Workshop Tutor, Facilitator for AR-VR-MR (Immersive Lab) Stall along with Prof. Pooja Ghorpade.

The AR VR MR Workshop saw a full house with 80 plus students. BNCA BNCA Final year student Arushi Ponnala hosted the interview with Ar. Rafiq Azam and she was also the NASA representative at the Biennale.

Shri. G. Kishan Reddy, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Development of North-eastern Region of India paid a visit to the Biennale.

13 panels of the Temples of India Exhibition were put up by BNCA Institute of Sustainable Development Studies ISDS and Center for Cultural Studies, CCS.



Prof. Pooja at the AR VR stall



Team BNCA with Ar. Rafiq Azam

Prof. Mahesh Bangad moderated a panel discussion on 'Challenges and Opportunities for Young Practices'. He also conducted a workshop on 'Thinking Design' on 14<sup>th</sup> December. Janhavi Patil, a 4<sup>th</sup> year B. Arch student of BNCA gave a talk on 'Applications of Artificial Intelligence in Architecture : A students Perspective'.

## Nexus - BNCA Culturals Dec 2023

The echoes of joy, laughter, and applause still resonate in the air as we reflect on the grandeur of Nexus 2023, the annual cultural extravaganza that unfolded at BNCA from December 26 to December 30. This year, Nexus donned the vibrant theme of 'Kaleidoscope'.

### Day 1: Sports, Flea Market, Laughter & Dance

The festivities kicked off with a spirited Sports Day, where students showcased their athletic prowess and team spirit. The energy soared as participants competed in various sports, setting the tone for the exhilarating days ahead.

At sunset, the campus transformed into a lively flea market, adorned with stalls showcasing creativity, delicious food and beautiful jewellery. The evening reached its zenith with a side-splitting stand-up



Students pictured during Nexus comedy performance by the talented Sayali Raut. The laughter reverberated through the campus, paving the way for an unforgettable DJ night where the girls grooved to the beats, creating memories that would last a lifetime.

### **Day 2: Fashion, Culture & Diversity**

December 27th witnessed a perfect blend of competition and camaraderie as students showcased their talents in the much-anticipated cultural events.

The highlight of the day was the mesmerizing Fashion Show night, where BNCA students took center stage. From the design of the dresses to the makeup of the models, every detail was a testament to the students' creativity and dedication.

### **Day 3: Unity in Diversity - A Night of Dance**

The campus radiated with the colors of India on the 28th night. Divided into four divisions, each represented a state of the country, and students danced with power, grace, and beauty, leaving the audience in awe. The exceptional efforts of the dancers were met with thunderous



Nexus: Fashion Show



Students pictured during Nexus applause, showcasing the cultural diversity that unites our nation.

### **Day 4: Grand Finale - Drama Night & Awards**

The final day of Nexus unfolded with a dramatic flair. Each division brought forth their interpretation of the 'Kaleidoscope' theme, resulting in an extraordinary display of talent and creativity. Invited parents were captivated by the performances, expressing their admiration for the students' dedication.

The night concluded with the presentation of awards in categories such as 'Women of Substance,' 'Pillar of BNCA,' and 'Beyond BNCA.' The teary-eyed final-year students bid adieu to Nexus, cherishing the memories during their journey.

As the winner of the culturals was announced, the applause resonated, echoing the success of Nexus 2023.

In closing, Nexus 2023 was more than just an event; it was a celebration of talent, creativity, and unity. As we bid farewell to this edition, let's carry the spirit of Nexus forward, embracing the diversity and vibrancy that defines our BNCA family.



Nexus : Drama Night



Nexus Award Ceremony



Nexus 23 Winners trophy bagged by Division A

## **Grand 'Send-off' ceremony for Mrs. Sangeeta Mohokar**

Administrative staff Mrs. Sangeeta Mohokar was given a grand send-off on her retirement from service on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023 in the BNCA auditorium from 2 to 4pm. Faculty of BNCA, Cummins College and dignitaries of Maharshi Karve Stree Shikshan Samstha were present for the function.



Mrs. Sangeeta Mohokar send-off function

*Newsletter compiled and edited by Prof. Smita Ogale*

*Nexus write up and image selection by Students Sanika Dahiwal and Samruddhi Dhokale*