The dream of the great Spanish Jesuit, Fr. Henry Heras s.j., materialized with the establishment of the Indian Historical Research Institute in 1926. At that point of time there was no other historical research institute in Bombay (now Mumbai), where students could be trained according to the modern scientific methodology of investigation to carry out research in pure history and its several branches. It was this institute that served the purpose. Thus, it was not only Fr. Heras’ foresight for its creation, but also his interest and care in equipping an excellent library with original source material, a museum with sculpture, paintings and valuable artefacts that provided special facilities for conducting research.

After his death in 1955, his successors – the Directors of the Heras Institute, Dr. Adolf Esteller s.j., Dr. John Correia-Afonso s.j., Dr. Anthony D’Costa s.j., Dr. Joseph Velinkar s.j., Dr. Desmond D’Monte s.j., Dr. Aubrey Mascarenhas s.j., Dr. Frazer Mascarenhas s.j. – continued in his footsteps to maintain the rich traditions in enhancing Indian culture through this Institute by organizing a variety of Research Programmes.

Indeed, since 2014, due to the munificence of the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, the Heras Institute has been through a major restoration and refurbishment process. A Conservation Lab has been set up to conserve and preserve the precious artefacts in paper, stone, wood and metal of the Heras Museum. Through Workshops and with interested students from the various Arts and Science faculties of the College, conservation will take place.

Furthermore, to create an awareness of the importance of Conservation in a wider sense, a National Conference, based on the theme of Sustainability: Past, Present and Future, is scheduled from 21st to 23rd November 2016.

With Prof. (Dr.) Noel Sheth s.j., as Advisor to the Heras Institute, and the Department of Inter-religious Studies, headed by Fr. Prashant Olalekar s.j.; Dr. Conrad Pesso s. j. Secretary Treasure, The Bombay St. Xavier’s College Trust, Dr. Roy Pereira s.j. Vice-Principal, St. Xavier’s College, Mumbai, and Prof. In-charge of the Conservation Centre at the Heras Institute; Dr. Rajendra Shinde, Vice-Principal, St. Xavier’s College, Mumbai; Dr. Priya Sundarajan, Director of Caius Laboratory; and Dr. Anita Rane-Kothare, Head, Department of the Post Graduate section of Ancient Indian Culture and Archaeology, the planning and preparation for the National Conference evolved.

Attached is a copy of the Concept Note and the Registration Form.