

Dear Members,

I have just completed 12 year as the Chairman of INTACH and 27 years of association with it. I take this opportunity to share memories, of reshaping its present and moulding its future.

In the last 12 years. INTACH has developed into a “Brand”- a brand which recalls public service, selflessness, trust, world class professional expertise in all spheres of heritage. This brand is now attracting attention of the central and state govts, the corporate world and the thousands of communities’ which are the repositories of heritage. A few recent examples would suffice:

- Govt. of MP has just sanctioned Rs.5 crores for a project of establishing a tribal museum at Jabalpur
- Govt. of J&K has entrusted to INTACH projects of smart cities Srinagar and Jammu worth Rs. 25 crores
- Corporate sector has come forward to revive paper making tradition in Kagzipura-Aurangabad district of Maharashtra, initially with a Rs.1 Cr plus budget and now extending scope to establish a museum, reviving a water body and so on
- You are also aware of the project to conserve 11 earthquake damaged temples in Nepal worth about Rs. 300 Crores being handled on behalf of the Ministry of External Affairs.

With the surplus generated during the past 2 years, a new initiative, to conserve heritage sites in India, passion projects of chapters, each not exceeding Rs. 10 lakhs has been initiated. In this regard we have had a very interesting request from District administration of Kadapa District, A.P. to assist in shifting Mahaveer Museum to a new refurbished accommodation to attract visitors from all over India. This is beside seven conservation projects under execution and two already executed on the request received from conveners.

I wish to add that the flowering of the INTACH brand is the result of the professional wing and Chapters network working in sync, in harmony with each other rather than at odds with each other.

It is also worth remembering that after its formation in 1984, within first 10 years during the tenure of our first Member Secretary, late Shri Thapar, INTACH had become a national institution based on its seminal contribution to bringing

professional expertise in India, in architectural and material heritage conservation. During this period, selfless contribution and public service was the hallmark of the functioning of INTACH and which attracted high minded members of the public to it.

As stated at the opening, let us celebrate this India wide brand of excellence in public service and continue to build upon it. It is important that both the professional divisions at the Central Office and Chapters work together, and not in separate silos in a spirit of selflessness for India and the planet.

In passing I would also like to draw your attention to the just concluded campaign for INTACH elected positions. Such campaigns need be fought with dignity and decorum and without resort to underhand tactics which defame the institution by writing false allegations to the authorities. The pursuit of personal ambition must not be at the cost of INTACH's reputation, at any time.

Let us set aside egos and personal ambitions and not create situations which can be exploited by external forces for unhealthy interference in the Institution which is like a family for all of us. This can be a disaster in the making for INTACH and can ruin its reputation and future potential for service. With this caution, I request the Vice-Chairperson to address the gathering and thereafter the Member Secretary will take up the agenda.