

I N T A C H

Minutes of the 31st Annual General Body Meeting of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) held on Saturday, the 19th March, 2016 at 11.30 A.M. at INTACH's Office, 71, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi – 110 003

Maj. Gen. (Retd.) L.K. Gupta, Chairman, INTACH presided over the 31st Annual General Body Meeting held on 19th March, 2016. Ninety five INTACH members participated in the AGM as per Annexure – 1.

2. Member-Secretary welcomed the members of INTACH to the AGM. She mentioned the names of members whose sad demise had occurred during the year 2015 (list of the Members is at Annexure – 2). All the members observed two minutes silence to pay homage to the deceased members. After which the Member Secretary requested Chairman to conduct the proceedings.

3. The Chairman welcomed the members to the AGM and conveyed his very best wishes to them and their families. The Chairman in his speech covered the following main points:-

- a) Thanked all members, Convenors, Co-Convenors, senior members and Founder members for their love and affection for INTACH and the values for which it stands
- b) He had been in INTACH for 21 years of which six years had been as Chairman. He enjoyed every moment of interaction with members which provided valuable inputs to fulfill the wide mandate of INTACH. It could not be one man's effort but the coordinated and joint efforts of all of us.
- c) During the last six years, our corpus had grown by 23 times to Rs. 140 crores but it is still meagre considering the breadth of our mandate, 187 Chapters and the explosion of activities. He thanked the Convenors/Co-Convenors who have a great responsibility for the expansion and up-gradation of the activities and to the professionals at the Central Office.
- d) He complimented Dr. (Mrs.) C.T. Misra, Member Secretary for managing the Trust with transparency and providing leadership to a committed, energetic and dedicated team of professionals, particularly during his long spells of absence. He added that MS was instrumental in suggesting a strategy for bringing back INTACH (UK) Trust corpus of Rs. 26.34 crore lying there since 1987 to India and her excellent contribution for getting the corpus of Rs. 100 crore directly from the Ministry of Finance. Through her efforts, INTACH is presently represented on a number of Committees of the Ministry of Culture. Through her interaction with the Ministry of Urban Development, INTACH was appointed Anchor for three HRIDAY cities projects in Varanasi, Gaya and Warangal.
- e) The enormous demands to cater for valid expenses of activities in the field and for justifiable increase in salaries of professionals are a great challenge to the Trust. With the fall in rates of interest, our income will only be getting reduced. It is for us to manage the Trust within our resources.

- f) Our focus will remain on documentation of tangible and intangible heritage, towards awareness and other programmes, documentation of ecological assets of the country, revival of water bodies, supporting passion projects, upgradation of infrastructure, heritage education programmes for children, professionals and INTACH members. Further there is a need to expand the number of conservation laboratories to meet the growing need for conservation of art objects throughout the country.
- g) A new focus area is the documentation of Geo-heritage sites of which there are about 400 sites in the country. Presently only 30 are listed.
- h) INTACH encourages the Chapters to bring out publications on local heritage to focus the attention of print and electronic media on these matters.

There is thus need to devote our resources very carefully for the above focus areas.

4. Chairman commended Thakur Ranvir Singh, Advisor to the State Chapter in Rajasthan and Observer for UP for promoting rural heritage tourism. He also commended Shri Ashok Singh Thakur, Convenor of Chandrapur Chapter in Maharashtra for taking up conservation of the Jugad Shiv Mandir which was built by King Jagdeo of Parmar Dynasty in 12th Century AD on the confluence flowing River Painganga and River Wardha. The renovation work was done with the help of local people. A total number of four booklets and 1 leaflet were published. The Chapter had provided technical assistance to the rural people to look after their neglected heritage not promoted either by ASI or the State Government.

5. Lastly and importantly the Chairman brought to the notice of AGM the need for the reforms in the composition of Governing Council. When the Trust was set up, the total members in various categories were limited and most members knew each other. There was no non-voting category then which is more than 3800 now and who play a great role in the Chapters and bring voluntarism in work. Life members have grown to more than 4800. There are a large number of States which are not or never represented in the Governing Council. Members have to vote for candidates often without knowing them or their contribution to heritage conservation or INTACH. It is essential to look at all these issues which were also debated in the last meeting of the Executive Committee on 11th March. It is proposed to prepare a discussion paper and put it on the INTACH's website for wider circulation for the views of the members. The founding document/Rules and Regulations are very sound and any modification of the same should be taken up only after careful deliberations by the members openly and brought up before the EC, GC and AGM. The representation from each State will be a better composition of the GC which provide accountability by the member representing the State about his/her contribution to INTACH and in the promotion of heritage in their State.

6. Thereafter, he requested the Vice Chairperson to address the AGM. Vice Chairman in her speech mentioned the following points:-

She thanked the members of INTACH and said that INTACH had grown exponentially in the last few years.

INTACH was an NGO and was set up as a voluntary organization, we need to seriously professionalize at one level but also need to create the movement. We cannot sacrifice the excellence for which we are known. The work that is done by all our chapters, by the people in the field, projects that are taken up do abide by the standards of excellence that we have set for INTACH and for which INTACH is known. We have consolidated the institution, we have contributed to bringing that level of excellence which we must never compromise.

There is also a need to get people engaged to feel that they care about their heritage and care about INTACH and understand what INTACH stands for and the values that it stands for. It is important that we are able to provide that kind of movement/leadership intellectually, morally and at the ground level in terms of the work that we do. The commitment and ability of the members to put the institution and its values are above everything else.

7. Dr. (Mrs.) C.T. Misra, Member Secretary took opportunity to welcome the members to the AGM. In her report, she mentioned the following salient points:-

7.1. Members would have noticed that of late issues on heritage are more often reported in the media and there is a growing sensitivity towards the conservation of heritage from all quarters.

7.2. Members will recall that in the AGM last year we had informed that the Central government had introduced a programme for City Development focused on Heritage Conservation called HRIDAY. This programme which was at an nascent stage has now resulted in INTACH being nominated as an Anchor for the challenging cities of Varanasi, Gaya and Warangal. INTACH is presently working in close collaboration with the local city managers to put in place a heritage development plan which will significantly concentrate on the heritage aspects of the cities. Needless to say that it has been very challenging to break through the mindset of both the elected members and the local bureaucracy in viewing development from a heritage prism instead of only a cement, concrete led infrastructure development. I am happy to say that with the architectural heritage, material heritage, natural heritage and the Chapter teams working relentlessly with the local officials, INTACH's work and Tool Kits which have been developed for these cities have been greatly appreciated at the highest level of Governments.

7.3. It is encouraging for me to report that there was a time when INTACH had to approach the State Governments and other agencies not only for funding but to plead for understanding of heritage issues, today however we find the State Governments, local bodies and other agencies suo-moto approaching INTACH for advise, expertise and knowledge support.

7.4. Some of the major projects approved during this year is the conservation and restoration of the Sampurnanand Sanskrit University at Varanasi at the cost of Rs.11.39 crores and projects under the Fourteenth Finance Commission in Orissa. The Union Territory of Daman and Diu have approached INTACH to implement integrated projects for the territory of Diu covering architectural, natural and intangible cultural heritage.

7.5. We observe a fresh enthusiasm among the Chapters Convenors and Members both new and old. Chapters are contributing immensely in awareness creation of environmental protection, conservation of built heritage and saving intangible cultural treasures of the country. Many Chapters are keen to take up challenging issues and projects and are bearing the flag of INTACH at the local level by striving to include the community in heritage conservation. Every Division at the Headquarters has been supporting the Chapters both technically and in many cases financially, whenever there has been a request.

7.6. The INTACH Heritage Academy is now 4 years old and is building on its initial stages by reviewing the feedback from the field as to what is required for the Academy to be useful and productive to the community. It has conducted 13 training courses during the year and a large number of government P.W.D. engineers and A.S.I Officials have been trained at the initial stage. The IHA will take up follow up courses with case studies and hands on learning for the mid carrier officials and professionals.

7.7. We are happy to report that with the collaboration of the IGNCA the scanning, archiving and digitization work of INTACH is going on rapidly and with certain copyright pre-conditions the data base will be available to the general public through the INTACH Website.

7.8. In order to focus on the North Eastern Region of India which is often not in our mindscape a major workshop was conducted by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Division and the Chapters of the North East on Oral Traditions: Continuity and Transformations, Northeast India and Southeast Asia at Shillong, Meghalaya from 1st – 4th February, 2016 which involved international and Indian experts interacting and bringing out India's North Eastern cultural links with South East Asian Countries. An exhibition of Photographs by Dr. Verrier Elwin was mounted during the Workshop which is now available to the members at INTACH Headquarters for viewing.

7.9. The Craft Cell of INTACH has embarked upon two ambitious projects one is the Documentation of Iconic Sari Weaving Clusters in India which eventually hopes to result in a Dossier for UNESCO nomination and the second is the Documentation of the Building Crafts and Crafts person in the country. INTACH has also been awarded for the film made by the Craft Cell on the Black Pottery of Nizamabad.

7.10. The Heritage Education and Communication Division has remained the backbone of INTACH carefully nurturing schools, teachers and colleges in heritage conservation. It has conducted 134 Programmes this year all over the country and has involved Chapters and Schools in 165 cities in the INTACH Heritage Quiz.

7.11. The Art and Material Heritage has embarked upon an All India Programme for the Documentation of Wall Paintings in the country. The Division is also actively involved along with the Chapter in pioneer projects such as the restoration of the 7th Century Temple Radhakrishna at Gaya and a small ancient temple at Nirmand a Heritage Town in Himachal

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Pradesh. The Conservation Laboratories are being upgraded with scientific equipments, in a phased manner and INTACH hopes to be a major reference point for scientific analysis of materials in conservation in future.

7.12. The Delhi Government has recognized the role of INTACH's work in natural heritage conservation and the DDA has formed an expert committee to establish a natural heritage network in Delhi where INTACH has been invited to be part of the expert committee.

7.13. Observing the alarming losses of lakes and wetlands INTACH filed a PIL in August, 2014 to conserve the famous Najafgarh Jheel spread in NCT Delhi and Gurgaon, Haryana. INTACH is hopeful of positive orders in the next 4 months. The case details would be subsequently brought out in a monograph for the benefit of Chapters.

7.14. INTACH Headquarters infrastructure is being constantly upgraded and made ecologically compliant. There is much work to be done and it is not possible for us to rest on our oars. Our membership is expanding and hence there is a need for hand holding and perhaps system will be required to manage a much larger organization with more rigour towards financial and technical overseeing. The Administration hence needs to be strengthened considerably.

7.15. I believe that with the support of all the members of INTACH and their positive contribution, INTACH as a premier heritage organization will be able to fulfill its mandate and go from strength to strength.

6. Thereafter the Member-Secretary took up the agenda items:-

Item No.1:- To confirm the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 21.03.2015

The Minutes were confirmed.

Item No.2:- To consider action taken report with regard to the points raised at the AGM held on 21.3.2015

The Action Taken Note was noted and approved.

Item No.3:- To consider and adopt the Annual Report for the period 1st April, 2014 to 31st March, 2015

The General Body resolved that the Annual Report for 2014-15 is adopted as recommended by the Governing Council in its meeting held on 11.12.2015.

Item No.4:- To consider and adopt the Audited Statement of Accounts for the period 1st April, 2014 to 31st March, 2015

The General Body resolved that the Audited Statement of Accounts for 2014-15 are approved and adopted as recommended by the GC in its meeting held on 11.12.2015.

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Item No.5:- Appointment of Auditors for the year 2015-2016

The Annual General Body meeting resolved that Thakur, Vaidyanath Aiyar & Company be continued as Auditors for conducting audit of INTACH Accounts for 2015-16 with 10% increase in fee paid for 2014-15.

Item No.6:- Declaration of results of Election to the Governing Council held through Postal Ballot.

Member Secretary requested the Returning Officer to declare the election results.

6.1. Shri Sanjay Narayen wanted to have the following two clarifications from the Returning Officer:-

- (a) Whether any legal notice has been received from any other candidate for the position of Chairman, what is the notice and what is the reply and
- (b) From the last AGM to the present AGM, has the number of vacancies in Donor category been reduced?

6.2. As regards (b), it was clarified that the vacancies in the Donor Category have not been reduced from the last AGM to the present AGM.

6.3. As regards (a), the Returning Officer clarified that a legal notice was received on 19th March in the morning for an inquiry on the following points raised by Shri Banerjee one of the contestants for the election to the Chairman's position:-

- a) On 30th January and 6th February, 2016, the official driver of INTACH was used by Chairman to come to office for doing election campaign work.
- b) Office Computer was used to send his campaign letters through his ex-Secretary. Shri Banerjee received the email message at 2.46 p.m. in the afternoon of 6th February even while this work was in progress on the INTACH premises.
- c) The Mobile phone has been used for making campaign related calls which is in fact the phone for which bills are paid by the INTACH office.

The Returning Officer sent the following reply informing Shri Ashis Banerjee that Para 9 of the AGM Notice dated 21.12.2015 does not debar:-

- (a) Use of personal car for coming to office on working days, weekends and holidays. An official driver has been driving the Chairman's car with prior approval.
- (b) Use of personal ID for sending emails is in order.

(c) Monthly payment for mobile phone charges has been made as approved.

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6.4. Mrs. Tasneem Mehta mentioned that she wrote to the Member Secretary in the morning on 19th March that the matter should be placed before the AGM as a procedure and a legal inquiry should be conducted to maintain the sanctity of the Institution. However, the election process cannot be disturbed.

6.5. On the above issue, Shri O.P. Jain commented as follows:-

- The Legal notice seems to be an afterthought after the completion of the election process and the counting was over and after knowing the results.
- The Returning Officer has clarified the points.
In fact it is commendable that the Chairman uses his own vehicle and comes to office even on weekends. There is nothing wrong.

6.6. One of the members stated that the work of INTACH has to go on even after the election process starts and there is no rule that the Chairman should be relieved of his duties and facilities which has been provided to him when the election process is on.

6.7. Another member Shri Srivastava, a lawyer by profession stated that the legal election process, even a general election, cannot be stalled in the middle. There is no stay order from any Court. He requested the members to allow the election proceedings to be completed.

6.8. A Founder member expressed his anguish that we are reducing the status and stature of INTACH by raising such issues, and that we should accept defeat gracefully. This was the INTACH ethos.

6.9. After discussions, the AGM accepted the clarifications provided by the Returning Officer and directed him to declare the results.

6.10. Shri Jagdish Chander, Director (P & P) and Returning Officer declared the results of the elections of members to the Governing Council in the various categories as per the following details:-

Chairman

Three valid nominations were received for the post of Chairman. The votes polled by each of the 3 candidates are as follows:-

Prof. A.G. Krishna Menon	:	376
Shri Ashis Banerjee	:	489
Maj.Gen. (Retd.) L.K. Gupta	:	812

Maj.Gen. (Retd.) L.K. Gupta was declared elected.

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Founder Members Category

For the two vacancies in the Founder Members category, only one nomination of Ms. Asha Sheth was received, who was declared elected unopposed.

Life Members Category

Against the 2 vacancies in the Life members category 11 valid nominations were received. The votes polled by each of the 11 candidates are as follows:-

<u>Names of Candidates</u>	<u>No. of votes polled</u>
1. Ms. Anuradha Reddy. P, Secanderabad, Telangana	: 408
2. Dr. C.M. Seth, IFS (Retd.), Jammu, J & K	: 84
3. Shri Haris Zaman, Banda, U.P	: 296
4. Shri Jayanta Sharma, Guwahari, Assam	: 66
5. Ms. Komal Anand, New Delhi	: 399
6. Shri Madan Mohan Upadhyay, Bhopal, M.P.	: 292
7. Col. (Retd.) R.D. Singh, Ambala, Haryana	: 134
8. Shri Shashi Kumar Verma, IFS (Retd.), Udaipur, Rajasthan	: 331
9. Air Commodore (Retd.) Surendra Singh Tyagi, Jamnagar	: 150
10. Shri Vedakumar Manikonda, Hyderabad, Telangana	: 450
11. Shri Vikas Dilawari, Mumbai, Maharashtra	: 187

The following two candidates were elected to the Governing Council from the Life Members category:-

1. Shri Vedakumar Manikonda
2. Ms. Anuradha Reddy. P

Institutional Members Category

Against two vacancies, three valid nominations were received. The votes polled by the three Institutions are:

1. Jammu Municipal Corporation, Jammu, J & K	:	5
2. Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur, Chhattisgarh	:	18
3. Takshila Educational Society, New Delhi	:	12

Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University and Takshila Educational Society were declared elected.

Ordinary Members category

For the one vacancy in the Ordinary Members category, only one nomination of Dr. Sukhdev Singh was received, who was declared elected unopposed.

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Corporate Members Category

Against the two vacancies in the Corporate Members category, no nomination was received. The two vacancies will remain vacant till the next year.

Donor Members

There was no vacancy and therefore, no election was held in this category.

Item No.7:- Any other matter with the permission of the Chair.

During the general discussion, some of the members made the following observations/suggestions:-

7.1. The notification for election was not received by the Chapters or Convenors and they were deprived to take part in the election.

It was clarified that the notice for AGM/election and ballot papers are sent to the members by normal/Ordinary Post and Registered Post respectively. It is not sent to the Chapters. If the notice is not received, it should be looked up in the INTACH website in the first week of January. If the Ballot paper is not received, an email indicating the address should be sent to the Returning Officer for further action.

7.2. INTACH should make use of technology more rapidly.

Chairman thanked the member for the suggestion and stated that it will be taken up for switch over to the digital system.

7.3. If there is no specific term of appointment of the State Convenor, it should be fixed.

Chairman clarified that the normal term is 3 years but he is allowed to continue. If there is any issue or complaint against any State or Chapter Convenor, it may be brought to the Chairman's notice or a member can have interaction with him. All factors are taken into account before replacing a Convenor.

7.4. In the management committee i.e. Governing Council, the Founder members category is getting reduced and will not be there one day. It needs to upgrade senior members to preserve their slots/quota.

7.5. One member explained that he stands for election every year but his number of votes are going down for the simple reason that nobody reads the bio-data or names. Unless members know each other and the work done by them people will not be able to vote correctly.

7.6. The term of the Chairman should be limited to two terms and there should be transparency in disbursement of funds.

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7.7. It was suggested that (a) each State Chapter/ Regional Chapter or local Chapter should hold an AGM where number of ideas/ suggestions could be discussed (b) Convenor should be for 3 years. If he is doing good work, he may be continued, if not he may be replaced.

7.8. It was suggested that (i) AGM should be held outside Delhi as was done once in Bangalore and (ii) if a Convenor is changed before 3 years, members should be informed of the reasons and details of the new Convenor.

7.9. There should be more transparency in appointment of Convenors and formation of the Chapters and this should be brought to the notice of the authorities for necessary action.

7.10. INTACH should focus on preservation of heritage structures which in the name of development are being made into commercial properties, e.g. Shopping malls, Hall of Nations in Pragati Maidan into a modern Convention Centre, etc.

7.11. Local Chapters should hold all members meetings in March to discuss the Annual Action Plan and its activities. Now the INTACH has funds, regional level Convenors should be created to focus on the regional activities.

7.12. Our cultural heritage which is dying, like murals, folk art, folk culture, Madhubani paintings (now known in India and abroad with the efforts of Mrs. Pupul Jayakar) should be documented and preserved as part of heritage.

7.13. Pre-historic sites and caves in Morena District, Madhya Pradesh need to be documented and preserved.

8. Chairman thanked all the members for sparing their time to attend the AGM and giving their suggestions which will be taken on board. He assured them that we will come back with an Action Taken Report. He also requested them to give their suggestions from time to time, even outside the AGM.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair and all the members who attended the AGM.



(Dr. (Mrs.) C.T. Misra)
Member Secretary

18.04.2016

To all the members of INTACH