



Chairman's address at INTACH Delhi Chapter's event on Pre-Independence Architectural Heritage

I do hope that the panel discussion planned as a part of the today's program is followed by a broad based consultation with some of the expert forums/professional bodies like Council of Architecture, Indian Association of Architects, colleges of architecture other professionals like Sattapathis to arrive the definition of modern architecture. The question is architecture is Heritage, what do we mean by modern or old. We have always valued architecture as perhaps the most permanent reminder of the culture of a civilization. Whatever iconic architecture that we select – we should be clear about its attributes i.e. significance – beauty, its distinguishing features and why it is a land mark, and the story, the intangible heritage, and the craftsmanship involved.

Ladies & Gentlemen, we are losing a lot of old architecture all the time. As a matter of fact not only losing but willfully neglected or in the name of development or to realize the value of the real estate or so on. It is even not documented/ listed/ notified for protection.

Finally, Ladies & Gentlemen, heritage is being created all the time. It is that heritage which has survived or ripened with the cooling or distancing effect of the time that is generally labeled as heritage or understood as heritage i.e. it is other than the creator or the contemporaries of the creator, who are the best judges of the heritage that is the future generations. It is their decision & responsibility to preserve it. I wish the discussions to day will be very meaningful and hope that it will a forerunner of many more such discussions.

Thank you