

Dear Members,

In year 2012, 11 people from different regions of India gathered and formed a group for a cause, which was to **revive ICOMOS India** and make it accessible to all professionals from varied fields of heritage and culture. We were joined by many more with their wholehearted support and together we were able to reconstitute ICOMOS India with the primary objective: **transparent and accessible organisation**, especially providing opportunities to young professionals to interact & grow on a common platform with experienced and esteem professionals of the country. During the first few years of establishment, as one of the founder members of COMOS, I was fortunate enough to contribute as the Treasurer in Interim Executive Committee of COMOS / ICOMOS India.

Over past some time, we have observed degree of concerns amongst the membership. The democratic process allows us to volunteer and responsibly contribute in organisational building.

I firmly believe, with the support of membership, this is apt time to **enhance transparency and decentralise** the organisational working system, (which was originally conceived) by **reinstating Freedom, Respect and Trust in NSCs and Zones**. This is an organisation of volunteers and its functioning is based on the **symbiosis** between Members and organisation. **Spirit of volunteerism** should be respected and NSCs and Zones shall be encouraged to grow and develop activities on their own with **greater autonomy**. I am of the opinion that contract signing culture between NSCs - Ex-com shall be discontinued and there are better ways of fund dispersal for NSCs and Zonal activities, which could be easily implemented.

We need to be more liberal, and would like to bring in policies to facilitate zones to **encourage activities conducted by young members**.

I believe in unified & collective effort of the organisation and based on the suggestions from membership, each year **ICOMOS India should have its annual theme / objectives** and encourage membership to conduct activities accordingly.

I find List serve of ICOMOS India is **heavily guarded**. This is one of the primary medium for expressing thoughts and sharing information amongst membership, I trust our membership is responsible enough to use list serve with care and **without moderation**.

With such highly experienced and capable resource pool of senior members along with enthusiastic and energetic young membership available within the organisation, I would like to see ICOMOS India focus on developing programmes which contributes constructively towards **nurturing India Specific Doctrine Texts / Charters** and use this platform to get international recognition of same. At the same time, challenges faced by our heritage sites, especially World Heritage Sites in India and so by the ones in the Tentative List shall be concerns for ICOMOS India too. I believe ICOMOS India as a community should **support and encourage** its members who are **devoting themselves to address such issues**.

As a firm believer of democracy, I took this opportunity to put my voice to the membership and urge you all to **express your voice through your vote**.

Thanks!!!

Munish Pandit