



Indian Trust for Rural Heritage and Development

“Just as the universe is contained in the self, so is India contained in the villages.” Mahatma Gandhi.

4 April 2022

MESSAGE TO INTO TRUSTEES

From: S.K. Misra

INTO Trustee

It is with a heavy heart that I must inform our INTO family of the tragic death this morning of Karni Singh Jasol, Director of Jodhpur's Mehrangarh Museum Trust, in a road accident.

Most of you know Karni, either having met him in Cambridge in 2015, or having seen him in the “Putting the Local into Global Heritage” panel at last year's online international conference.

Karni grew up in Mehrangarh Fort, where his father was an early Director, and perhaps it was this experience that led to his lifelong professional career there. Trained in Museum Management, he received many awards, including the Charles Wallace Award at the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Nehru Trust Award, the Fulbright Scholar Recognition.

Mehrangarh Fort is considered one of India's most important and best managed monuments. In addition to the Museum, the Trust is at the forefront of conservation and restoration, a generous patron of the arts and music and a lively centre of academic study. Karni has been centrally involved in all these accomplishments, including the organization of two acclaimed international exhibitions. In recent years he has also been actively involved in the Fort's ambitious “Rethinking Mehrangarh” initiative.

On a personal note, I became acquainted with Karni when I was Chairman of INTACH, and later through his input in one of our ITRHD projects. But my greater interaction with him was through Maureen (my wife, Maureen Liebl, for our newer Trustees). Her development and ongoing management of India's first professional museum shop in Mehrangarh Fort required close coordination with Karni, and he was an ever-helpful colleague, as well as a fine museum professional and a good friend.

In India the professional heritage world is small and close-knit. The loss of Karni will be greatly felt not only by his Jodhpur mentors and colleagues – Maharaja Gaj Singh (“Bapji”), Maharani Hemlata Rajye, Princess Shivranjani Rajye (CEO of the Mehrangarh Museum Trust), their family, the MMT Trustees and staff – but by all of us who were privileged to know him. I know our INTO colleagues will join us in praying for his young family at this very tragic time.

S.K. Misra, Chairman

Padma Bhushan Awardee

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