

## Brihan Mumbai Centre- IIA

Chairman's Address – *'Reviewing the 'Role of Architects and Opportunities' within the changing global scenario' on May 27, 2016.*

I have a great pleasure in welcoming our honourable Key note speaker Shri Phatak Sir, our esteemed Panellists active in different facets of architectural profession and all respectable Architects gathered for this event. Very Good afternoon to all!

44 years have passed since 'The Architect's Act' was approved in the year 1972. Professional scenario has significantly changed during this period. During last 10 years, the situation has reached an alarming stage.

On one side, number of Architectural colleges have increased from 174 in the year 2010 to 416 in the year 2015 and expected to be 450 in the coming years. About 49,000 Architects were registered in 2013. Present annual intake of students is about 26,000.

On the other side, Architects who used to be a Leader & a Master-Coordinator of the development process, is losing or has almost lost the leadership position. This scenario is in private practice as well as Government, Semi-Government and Institutional employments. Architects are appointed on lowest quoted fees and Pre-qualification Criteria's are set unrealistically high.

New delivery formats like 'Transaction Management Advisors', 'Engineering Procurement Consultants', 'Public Private Partnership' etc, are limiting scope of Architects considerably.

Formal qualifications of management, finance and transactions etc, are being elaborated to reduce the role of Architects to almost producing conceptual drawings and illustrations.

This situation calls for, urgent re-assessment of benchmarking indices and work competencies, required for varied tasks, for re-modelling professional practice organizational structure, as well as initiating curriculum reforms, at an earliest.

Our country has lots of scope for development and processes have just begun. We are exposed to global competition; hence, we will have to get acquainted to such competitions and pressures working for changing rules of the game. Re-scaling existing practices, marketing services, improving qualities to meet global challenges are essential.

Central vigilance department has already accepted that unrealistic Pre Qualifications should not be insisted for Architects, which is a creative profession. Similarly, it is understood that, not insisting L-1 criteria for professionals like Doctors, Lawyers & Chartered Accountants etc, is under consideration. These are the positive signs and encourages us to come together to work on strategies to counter negative pressures, by following democratic process.

I request you all, to participate actively in this initiative, to reinforce the value and relevance of our profession. With this, I hand over to Ar. Darshana to continue with the proceedings of today's event.